DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 033 852 SE 007 560

TITLE Reports of Studies of the Publication Fate of Material Presented at National Meetings (Two Years After the Meetings).

INSTITUTION Johns Hopkins Univ., Baltimore, Md. Center for Research in Scientific Communication.

Pub Date Jun 69

Note 85p.

EDRS Price EDRS Price MF-$0.50 HC-$4.35

Descriptors Conference Reports, Data Analysis, Data Collection, Information Science, *National Organizations, *National Surveys, Scholarly Journals, Scientific Research, *Statistical Surveys, *Technical Reports

Abstract

The objective of this research was to determine the publication fate of papers presented at the national meetings in 1966-1967 of the following organizations: (1) the Optical Society of America, (2) American Sociological Association, (3) American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, (4) American Geophysical Union, (5) American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, (6) Association of American Geographers, and (7) the American Meteorological Society. Questionnaires were sent to the authors of conference papers at the end of the first and second years after the meetings respectively. The results of the surveys showed that (1) about half the authors achieved journal publication within two years, (2) these were authors who submitted manuscripts to journals soon after the meetings, (3) some authors chose to disseminate their work in other written media such as books and technical reports, (4) there is usually a time lag of approximately one year between submission and publication dates, and (5) a high rate of journal rejection was one cause of low publication rate. The study raised the question of whether or not the information dissemination process may be so slow that the information in the journal article is worthless to the active researcher by the time it is finally published. (LC)

ED033852

REPORTS OF STUDIES OF THE PUBLICATION FATE OF MATERIAL PRESENTED AT NATIONAL MEETINGS (TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETINGS)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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Received in RSP 8-18-69
No. of copies 8
Grant (Contract) No. 5-14

Center for Research in Scientific Communication
The Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

June, 1969

SE 007 560

ED033852

REPORTS OF STUDIES OF THE PUBLICATION FATE OF MATERIAL PRESENTED AT NATIONAL MEETINGS (TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETINGS)

JHU-CRSC Technical Note #10 The Journal Publication of Papers Presented at the October 1966 Meeting of the Optical Society of America: 27 Months After the Meeting. February 1969.

JHU-CRSC Technical Note #12 The Journal Publication of Papers Presented at the 1966 Meeting of the American Sociological Association: Two Years After the Meeting. February 1969.

JHU-CRSC Technical Note #14 The Journal Publication of Papers Presented at Two Meetings of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics: Two Years After the Meetings. April 1969.

JHU-CRSC Technical Note #15 The Journal Publication of Material Presented at the 1967 Annual Meeting of the American Geophysical Union: Two Years After the Meeting. June 1969.

JHU-CRSC Technical Note #16 The Journal Publication of Material Presented at the 96th Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers: Two Years After the Meeting. June 1969.

JHU-CRSC Technical Note #17 The Journal Publication of Material Presented at the 1967 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. June 1969.

JHU-CRSC Technical Note #18 The Journal Publication of the Main Content of Papers Presented at Two Meetings of the American Meteorological Society: Two Years After the Meeting. June 1969.

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Technical Note #10 February 1969

THE JOURNAL PUBLICATION OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE OCTOBER 1966 MEETING OF THE OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA: 27 MONTHS AFTER THE MEETING[1]

[1]The work described in this report was supported by a grant (NSF-GN 514) under the Research and Studies Program of the Office of Science Information Service of the National Science Foundation.

Introduction

The October 1966 Meeting of the Optical Society of America was the occasion for an initial study of scientific information exchange associated with meeting presentations.[2] In 1967, approximately one year after the meeting, authors of presentations at the 1966 meeting were surveyed to determine the journal publication fate of the main content of their presentations during the ensuing year.[3] The results of this study showed that within 12 months after the 1966 OSA meeting, 50% of the presentation authors had submitted manuscripts to journals; 37% of the presentation authors had published their work; 9% had submitted manuscripts which had been accepted but not yet published; and 4% had submitted manuscripts which had not yet been accepted. The remaining 50% of the authors had not submitted the main content of their presentations to journals; over half (58%) of this group, however, reported that they had definite plans for journal publication of their work.

In 1968, approximately two years after the meeting, a second follow-up study was conducted, concerning the journal publication fate of material presented at the original (1966) meeting during the second year after the meeting. The present note reports the results of this latest study and describes the over-all journal dissemination pattern as it appeared approximately two years after the meeting.

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[2] Johns Hopkins University Center for Research in Scientific Communication. The dissemination of scientific information, informal interaction, and the impact of information received from two meetings of the Optical Society of America, JHU-CRSC Technical Report #3. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, September 1967.

[3] Johns Hopkins University Center for Research in Scientific Communication. The publication fate of material presented at the October 1966 Annual Meeting of the Optical Society of America, JHU-CRSC Technical Note #1. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, February 1968.

Method

In the fall of 1968, the questionnaire shown in Appendix A was sent to those 1966 OSA presentation authors who in the 1967 survey had indicated that a) they had submitted manuscripts to journals during the previous year but had not had their manuscripts accepted, or b) they had not submitted manuscripts, but definitely planned to do so. The purpose of the questionnaire was to ascertain the status of the work of these authors two years after their meeting presentations. Data were obtained on 48 (75%) of the 64 authors surveyed.

Results of Second Survey (two years after 1966 meeting)

Of the eight authors who had submitted manuscripts of their work but had not achieved acceptance within the first year after the meeting, seven had achieved publication during the second year. The eighth had abandoned publication plans after having had his manuscript rejected twice.

Of those authors who returned the questionnaire, forty had not submitted manuscripts based on their work to journals within the first year after the meeting but indicated definite plans to do so after the time of the first survey. The results from the second survey for these authors appear in Table 1.

Only 15% of these authors had made any effort to publish their work in the two years following the meeting; sixty-five percent still planned to submit manuscripts to journals. The remainder (20%) had abandoned publication plans during the second year without ever having submitted their work to journals.

Combined Results of First and Second Surveys

The distribution of the dates (when authors submitted manuscripts based on their meeting presentations) is presented in Figure 1. The solid curve shows the distribution of submission dates based only on those who had submitted manuscripts within two years after the meeting. The submission of manuscripts

Table 1

STATUS OF MANUSCRIPT TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETING FOR THOSE AUTHORS WHO HAD NOT SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPTS FOR JOURNAL PUBLICATION ONE YEAR AFTER THE MEETING BUT PLANNED TO DO SO IN FUTURE

Status	Percentage N=40
Manuscript published	5%
Manuscript accepted but not yet published	5
Manuscript submitted but not yet accepted	5
Manuscript not submitted but still planned	65
Publication plans abandoned	20

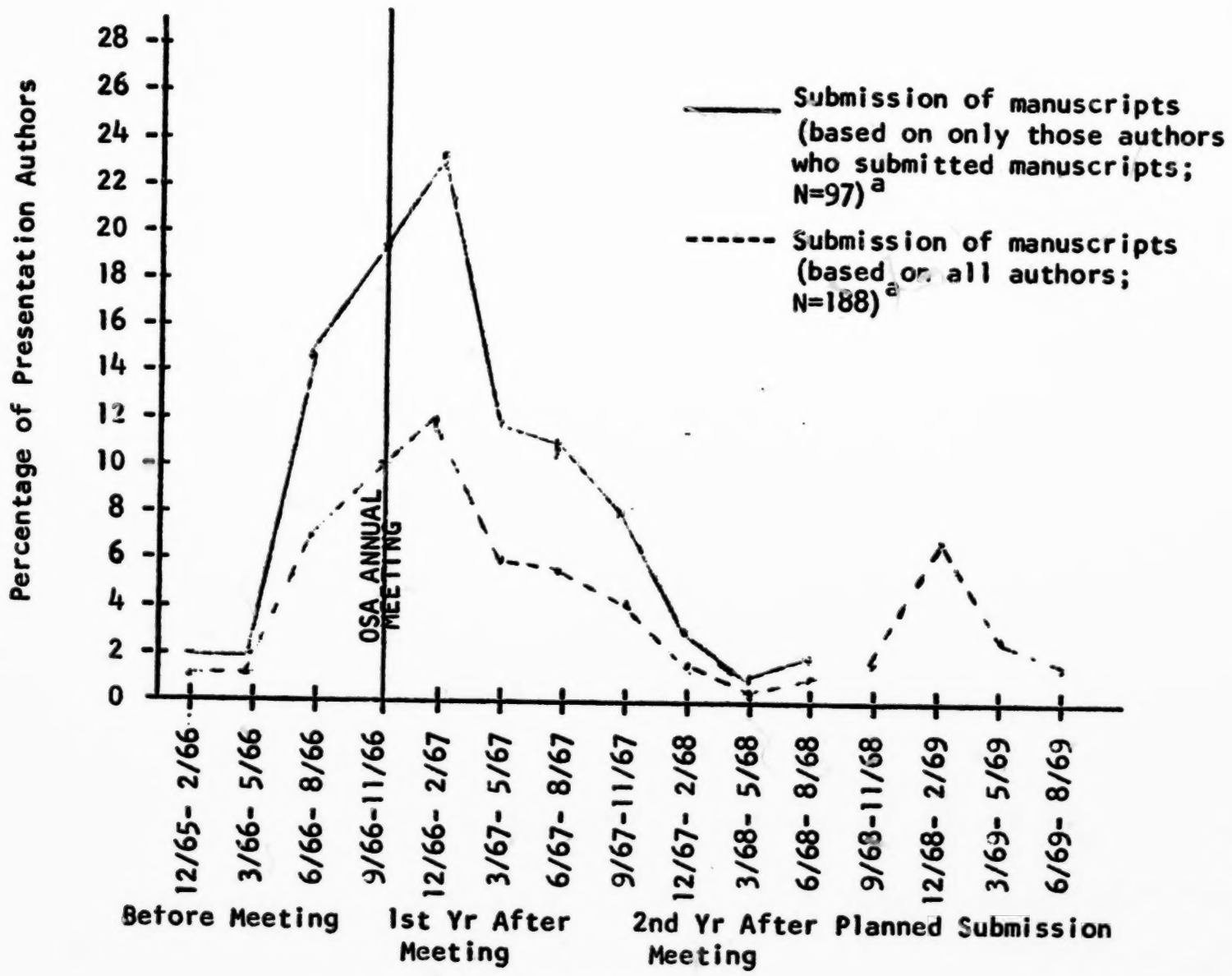

Figure 1: Date of submission to journals for material contained in presentations at the 1966 OSA Meeting.

[a]5 authors failed to provide these data.

began several months before the meeting and increased rapidly, reaching a peak some two to four months after the meeting. At this point in time, the majority (61.8%) of thcse authors who would submit their manuscripts within two years after the meeting, had already done so. Hereafter, the rate of submissions declined very rapidly -- only 38% of the total manuscript submissions occurred in the remaining 20 months of the two-year postmeeting period.

The broken line in Figure 1 shows the distribution of submission dates, based on a sample of all authors of presentations at the 1966 meeting -- i.e., all presentation authors included in the study regardless of whether or not they had submitted manuscripts to journals since the 1966 meeting. This distribution, which has the same characteristics as the distribution discussed previously, indicates that it was not until 16 months after the meeting that one half (50%) of the authors of presentations at the 1966 meeting had submitted manuscripts based on the content of their presentations to journals.

At the end of the two-year postmeeting period, 13% of the authors reported that though they had not yet submitted manuscripts for journal publication, they definitely had plans to do so (over half of these persons reported that their manuscripts were actually being prepared). To the extreme right in Figure 1 are shown (by the broken-line curve) the dates when these authors planned to submit their manuscripts to journals. Assuming that these plans will be realized, three years will have elapsed before all authors of presentations at the 1966 meeting who expected to submit the main content of their presentations for journal publication will actually have done so. At the end of three years, approximately two-thirds of the presentations at the 1966 meeting should have been submitted.

Shown in Figure 2 is the cumulative distribution of dates of publication for all those articles based on meeting presentations at the 1966 meeting which

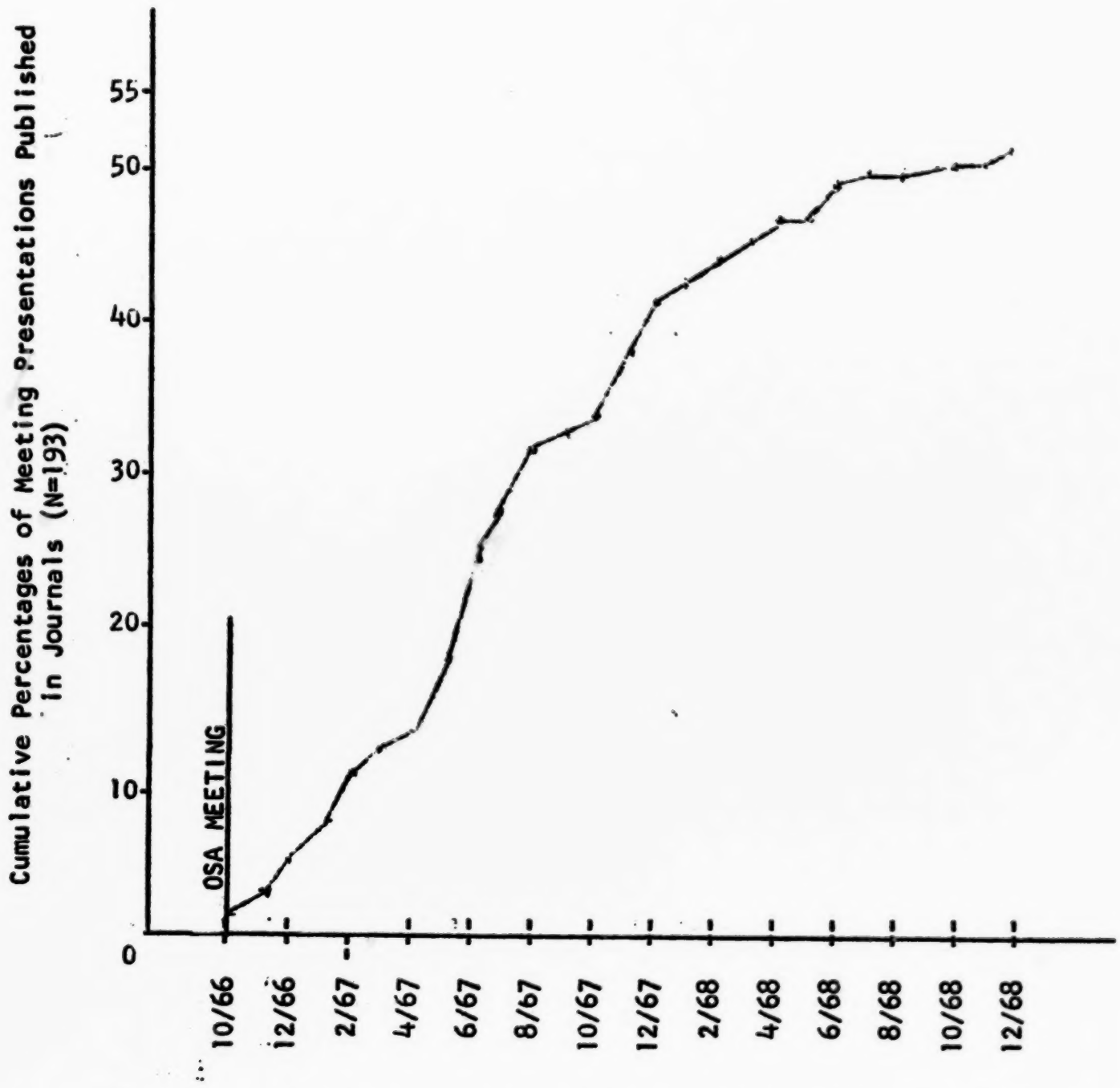

Figure 2: Date of journal publication of work presented at the 1966 OSA Meeting.

were published by the end of 1968. During the first year after the meeting, the rate of publication was relatively high; shortly thereafter the rate began to decline. Over 40% of all authors at the meeting published their work during the first 14 months after the meeting. It was not until 27 months after the meeting, however, that half of the authors had published their work.

By the end of 1968, almost all authors who had submitted manuscripts,had achieved publication. Only five authors who had submitted manuscripts had not had them published by this time. Thus some 27 months after the meeting, all but a small portion of those meeting presentations which were submitted for journal publication had been published.

There remains, however, a significant number of authors (13%) who reported, two years after the meeting, that they still planned to publish their work in journals. Since a fifth of those authors reporting similar plans one year after the meeting had abandoned these plans during the following year (i.e., during the second year after the meeting), we can expect, during the third year after the meeting, that a substantial portion of those authors still planning manuscript submission will abandon these plans, for as time passes the work becomes more out of date and the authors become increasingly involved in new work.

Those authors who will actually submit manuscripts, however, are likely to achieve journal publication of their work. It seems clear from these studies that any author of a presentation at the 1966 OSA meeting who submits a manuscript based on his presentation will probably get it published. During the two years following the meeting, only one author who submitted a manuscript of his work to a journal failed to get it published and subsequently abandoned journal publication plans. This particular author had had his manuscript rejected by two journals.

Discussion

By two years after the 1966 OSA meeting, about half the authors who had made presentations at the meeting had achieved journal publication of their work. Authors began submitting manuscripts based on their presentations several months before the meeting; the rate of submissions rose rapidly and peaked some two to four months after the meeting; and thereafter the rate declined sharply, reaching a plateau during the early part of the second year after the meeting. Although the majority of authors who had published their work by the end of 1968 had done so during the first year after the meeting, it was not until the end of 1968 that half of the work presented at the 1966 meeting had appeared in journals. Furthermore, although the publication rate began to decline sharply in 1968, some authors will still achieve journal publication during 1969, the third year after the meeting.

A major question is raised by these findings: is this process so slow that the information in the journal article is worthless to the active researcher by the time it is finally published? Results from a study designed to shed some light on this question indicated that although in many ways the article was considered superior to the presentation copy (e.g., work was more clearly presented, described in more detail, etc.), the presentation copy was judged to be at least as useful as the article by the majority of those respondents who indicated that either was useful in their work.[4]

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[4] Johns Hopkins University Center for Research in Scientific Communication. A comparison of the utility of information contained in copies of papers presented at the October 1966 meeting of the Optical Society of America with journal articles based on the same material, JHU-CRSC Technical Note #11, Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins University Center for Research in Scientific Communication, February 1969.

In light of these findings, the OSA meeting, which was the occasion for the first public dissemination of most of the work reported in these journal articles, would appear to be of especial importance to active researchers.

The results of the main study of the authors, attendants, and requestors at the 1966 OSA meeting suggest that active researchers were aware of the long delay likely to be encountered in journal dissemination of information presented at the meeting and realized that the meeting exposed them to a large body of optical research of which they might otherwise have remained unaware for a year or two longer. Their primary information-exchange efforts associated with the meeting appeared to involve efforts to circumvent the delays inherent in journal publication, to locate new sources of information, and to establish new informal networks, presumably so that in the future they might not even have to wait to hear authors present their work at the annual meeting to learn of its existence.

The finding that only 53% of the authors of presentations submitted manuscripts within two years after the meeting may raise some concern about the fate of scientific information contained in the remaining 47% of the presentations.

A large portion (29%) of these authors (or 13% of all authors at the meeting) still planned journal publication of their work two years after the meeting. As mentioned previously, the actual publication of much of this work now seems doubtful. Even assuming, however, that all this work will eventually be published, there remains that third of the meeting presentation authors who did not anticipate future journal publication of their work. Of this third, however, 64% (or 22% of all authors) have disseminated their work in other written media, such as books, premeeting journal articles, and technical reports. Consequently, less than 12% of the work presented at the 1966 OSA meeting will probably never be disseminated in written media.

Johns Hopkins University Center for
Research in Scientific Communication

Technical Note #12 February 1969

THE JOURNAL PUBLICATION OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE 1966 MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION: TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETING[1]

[1]The work described in this report was supported by a grant (NSF-GN 514) under the Research and Studies Program of the Office of Science Information Service of the National Science Foundation.

Introduction

The 1966 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association was the occasion for the first study of scientific information exchange in sociology, conducted by the Center for Research in Scientific Communication.[2] At the time of this study, 61% of the responding presentation authors indicated plans to submit manuscripts of their work for journal publication within three to four months after the meeting.

Approximately one year after the meeting, a follow-up survey was conducted to determine the actual journal publication efforts made by these authors.[3] Of the 267 responding authors (85% of the total presentation-author population), 24% (65) indicated that their work had been published in journals, and 15% (40) reported that their manuscripts had been accepted for publication. The work of 18% (47) had been submitted to journals, but not yet accepted for publication. Another 18% (48) indicated that they were still preparing manuscripts for journal publication. Sixteen percent (44) had no plans for journal submission, because the information contained in the work was or would be available in other publication forms -- mostly as books or parts of books. Nine percent (23) of the authors indicated that they had no plans for publication (in any form) of the work they presented at the 1966 ASA meeting.

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[2] Johns Hopkins University Center for Research in Scientific Communication. Scientific information-exchange behavior at the 1966 annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, JHU-CRSC Technical Report #4. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, September 1967.

[3] Johns Hopkins University Center for Research in Scientific Communication. The publication efforts of authors of presentations at the 1966 annual meeting of the American Sociological Association during the year following the meeting, JHU-CRSC Technical Note #3. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, April 1968.

Method

In October 1968, approximately two years after the 1966 ASA meeting, a second follow-up questionnaire (see Appendix A) was sent to those authors who, in the first follow-up questionnaire, indicated either that they had submitted manuscripts to journals but had not yet had them accepted for publication, or that they still planned to submit manuscripts for journal publication. The second follow-up questionnaire sought information about the journal publication fate of the work presented by these authors, by the end of the second year following the 1966 ASA meeting. A total of 94 authors was initially selected for study.[4] A search through American Sociological Review and American Journal of Sociology in 1968 revealed that the work of one of these authors had been published in ASR and that of two others in AJS. Thus questionnaires were sent to the other 91 authors. Five of these were undeliverable. Sixty-eight authors returned usable questionnaires for a response rate of 79% (of the 86 deliverable questionnaires).

This report first describes findings regarding the journal publication fate of work by these 71 authors (the 68 responding authors and the three authors whose work was found in ASR and AJS), and then summarizes the publication fate of work presented at the 1966 ASA meeting during the two years following that meeting.

Findings of the Second Follow-up Survey (two years after the meeting)

Table 1 summarizes the publication fate of the work reported by the 71 authors, as of the end of the second year. Eight percent (6) of the authors had published their work in journals during the second year. Ten percent (7)

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[4] One responding author contributed two papers at the meeting. In the second follow-up study, this author was surveyed with regard to only one of the two papers, so he would be spared filling out two questionnaires.

Table 1

JOURNAL DISSEMINATION STATUS (TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETING) OF MANUSCRIPTS OF 1966 ASA MEETING PRESENTATION AUTHORS[a]

Dissemination Status at End of Second Year	All Authors[a] (N=71)	Submission Status Indicated by Authors One Year after the Meeting[a]	
		Submitted but not yet accepted[b] (N=41)	Submission planned (N=30)
Manuscript published in journal	8%	10%	7%
Manuscript accepted, but not yet published	10	15	3
Manuscript submitted but not yet accepted	13	17	7
Submission still planned	31	20	47
No submission planned	38	39	37
(Work published or to be published in books)	(11)	(12)	(10)

[a]Those authors who had not had their work published or accepted for publication during the first year after the meeting, but still anticipated submission or publication of manuscripts in journals.

[b]All authors in this group had submitted manuscripts to journals during the first year after the meeting. Thus, the last three dissemination-status categories for this group, which includes 75% of the respondents, can probably be assumed to indicate that the journals to which the manuscripts had been submitted during the first year had not accepted them for publication.

indicated that their manuscripts had been accepted by journals and 13% (9) had submitted manuscripts to journals. Thirty-one percent (22) of the authors were still at the manuscript preparation stage, while 38% (27) had abandoned plans for manuscript submission to journals (11% -- 8 authors -- indicated that their work had appeared or would appear in books). Two-fifths (39%, or 16 authors) of those authors who had submitted manuscripts by the end of the first year following the meeting and failed to achieve acceptance, abandoned plans for further submission by the end of the second year.

Journal Publication Fate of the 1966 ASA Meeting Presentation Material

On the basis of data collected over the two years after the 1966 ASA meeting, we can now give a summary of the publication fate of the presentation material. As can be seen in Table 2, by two years after the meeting, two-fifths (42%) of the presentation material had appeared in journals. Four percent of the authors had submitted manuscripts to journals but had not yet had their manuscripts accepted. Eight percent of the authors were still preparing manuscripts for submission. Of the authors who had no plans for journal publication or who had abandoned such plans (36% of the authors in the sample; 96 authors), over half (54) chose other media -- usually books -- for publication of their work.

If all the authors who intended to publish their work in journals pursue their goals and eventually achieve journal publication, a maximum of 60% of the 1966 ASA meeting presentation material will appear in journals, probably by the end of the fifth or sixth year following the meeting.

If we consider the range of journals which publish these manuscripts, we find that the low journal publication rate is not the only disturbing statistic. Table 3 shows that less than 30% (34) of the published or accepted manuscripts

Table 2

JOURNAL PUBLICATION FATE OF 1966 ASA MEETING PRESENTATION MATERIAL

(For One and For Two Years After the Meeting)

Dissemination Status	Manuscript Status at the End of the First Year (N=267)	Manuscript Status at the End of the Second Year (N=267)
Published in journal	24%	42%
Accepted by journal, but not yet published	15	3
Submitted, but not yet accepted	18	4[a]
Submission still being planned	18	8[a]
No submission planned	25	36[a]
a) Published or to be published in another form	16%	20%
b) No publication anticipated	9	16
Unknown	0	7

[a]These categories included four authors who returned the second follow-up questionnaires after the survey was initially closed and two other authors who indicated submission of manuscripts to journals at the end of the first year following the meeting but did not respond to the second follow-up questionnaire. Three of these six authors indicated their work would appear in books, two reported resubmission to journals, and one planned to submit again.

Table 3

JOURNALS WHICH ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPTS BASED ON 1966 ASA MEETING PRESENTATION MATERIAL

Journal	Manuscripts Published or Accepted by the End of the Second Year Following the Meeting N=118
Core Sociological Journals	29%
American Sociological Review	8%
American Journal of Sociology	7
Social Forces	4
Sociometry	3
Sociology of Education	<1
Journal of Health & Social Behavior	2
Public Opinion Quarterly	2
American Sociologist	3
Other Journals[a]	70
Unspecified	<1

[a]Forty-six different journals accepted the manuscripts for publication.

had appeared or will appear in core journals -- i.e., journals which are published by the ASA or which received frequent citation by ASA journals during 1965-1966.[5] By these criteria, over two-thirds (70%) of the manuscripts had been or will be published by journals out of the mainstream of sociological literature. In another study conducted by the Center,[6] we found that the degree of awareness and examination of meeting presentation material was positively related to the visibility of the journal (i.e., core or noncore to sociology) in which that material appeared. Thus our data suggest that a large portion of the 1966 ASA meeting presentation material, though published in journals, will probably go unnoticed by the sociological researcher, at least until a year or so after publication.

Also important to the use of scientific information published in journals is the duration from the time the author reported the work at the meeting to the time the work appeared in journals. Figure 1 shows the distribution of submission dates[7] by those authors who had submitted manuscripts to journals by the end of the second year. For some authors, submission began a year prior to the 1966 ASA meeting. By October, 1966, or just a month after the meeting, over half the authors had made some journal submission attempts.

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[5] Nan Lin and Carnot Nelson, "Bibliographic Reference Patterns in Core Sociological Journals, 1965-1966," The American Sociologist, scheduled for publication about February 1969.

[6] Johns Hopkins University Center for Research in Scientific Communication. A comparison of the utility of information contained in copies of papers presented at the 1966 annual meeting of the American Sociological Association with journal articles based on the same material, JHU-CRSC Technical Note #13. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, February 1969.

[7] In the case of more than one submission, the earliest date was selected.

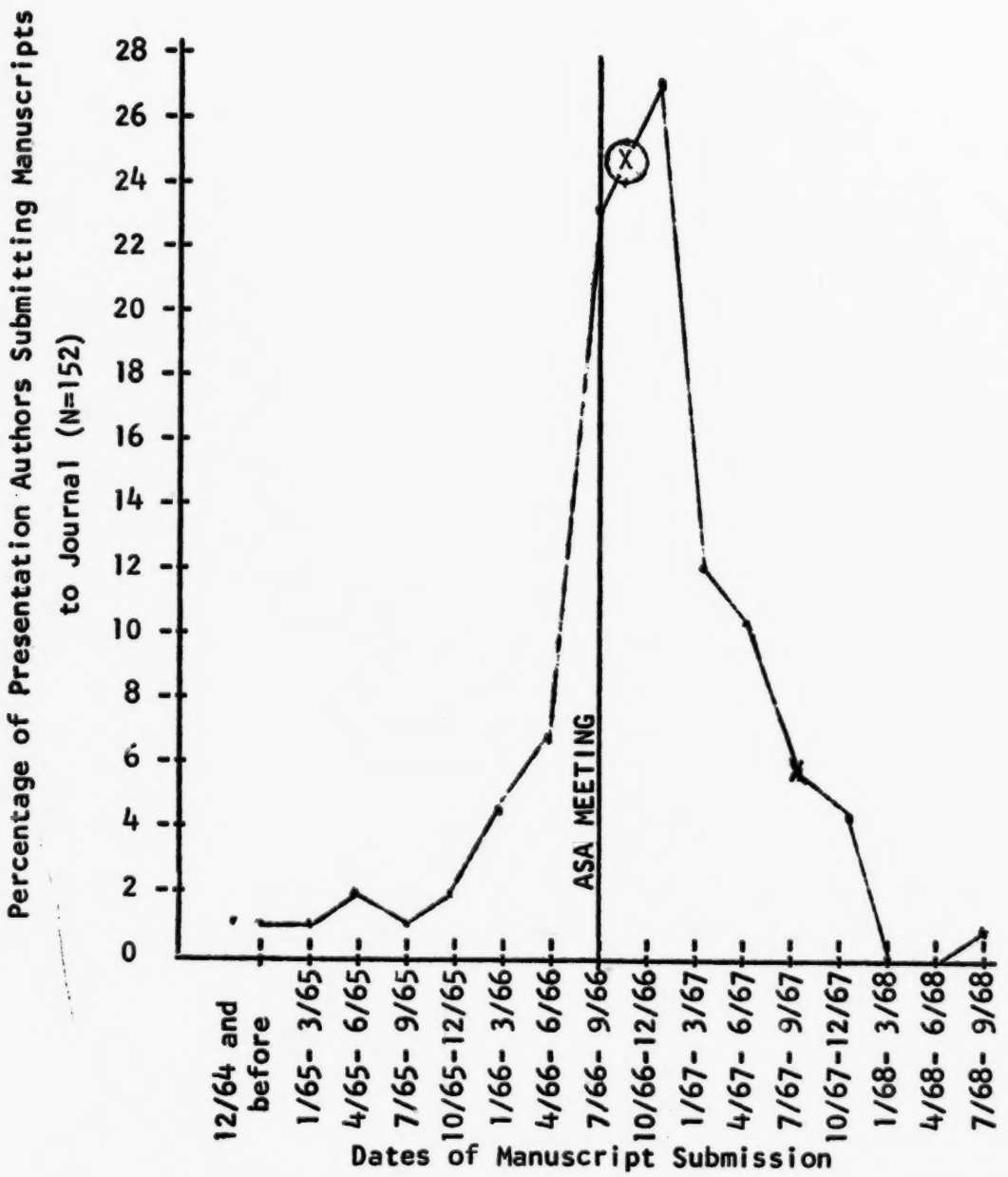


Figure 1: Marginal distribution dates of submission of manuscripts to journals.[a]

[a]The percentages are based on the number of authors (152) who had submitted manuscripts to journals by two years after the meeting and who specified the dates by which they had submitted their manuscripts. Where manuscripts had been submitted to more than one journal, the earliest submission date was selected.

(X) Date by which 50% of the authors submitted manuscripts (based on total number of authors who submitted manuscripts)

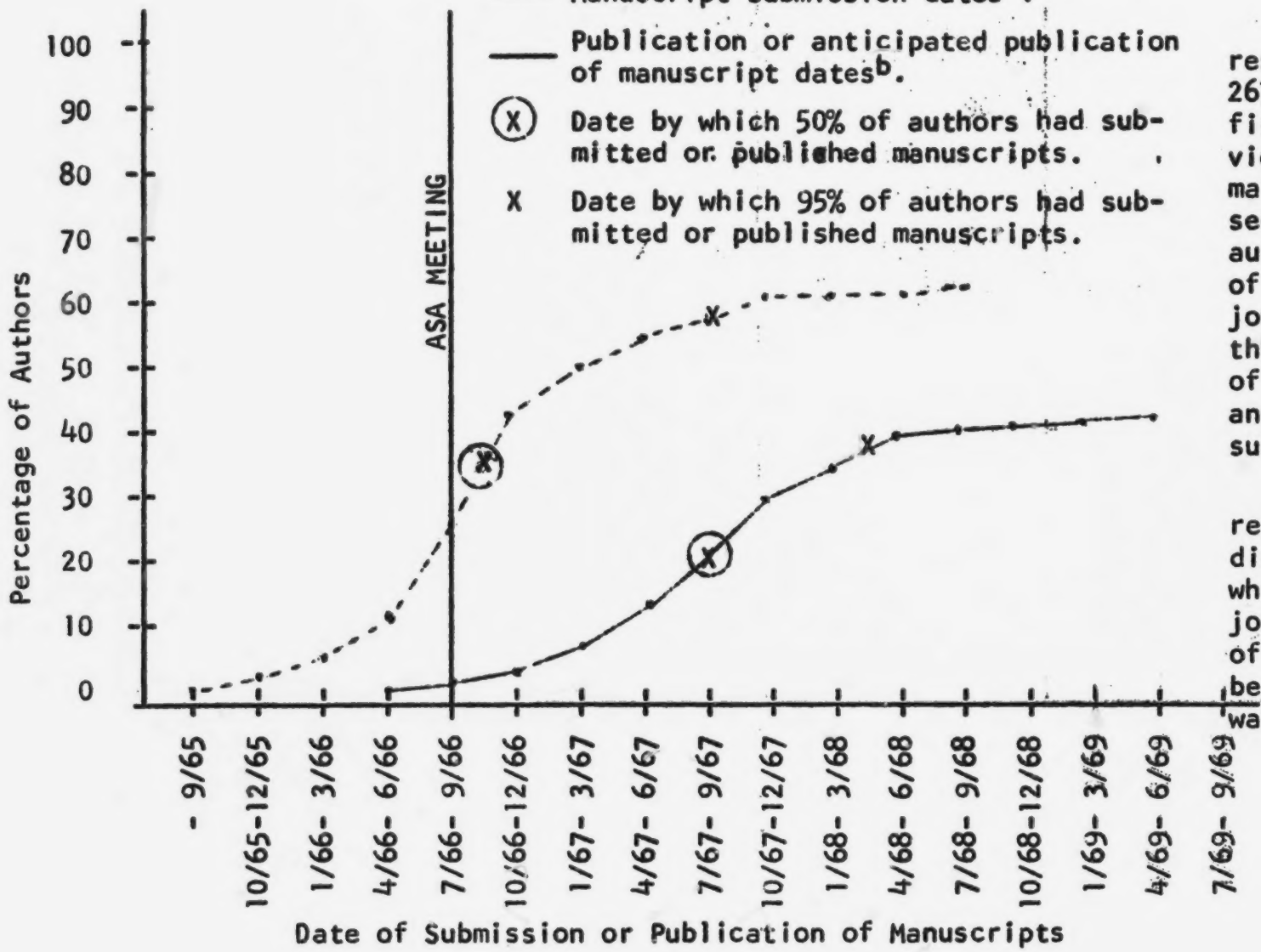
X Date by which 95% of the authors submitted manuscripts (based on total number of authors who submitted manuscripts)

Figure 2 shows the cumulative distribution of earliest submission and publication (or anticipated publication) dates. It shows that the great majority (95%) of authors who submitted manuscripts to journals, initiated such attempts by the end of the first year following the meeting and the great majority (95%) of those who had their work published within two years following the meeting, had this work appear in journals about a year and a half following the meeting. It seems clear, from the way these curves have leveled off during the last quarter of the two-year period, that tracing the publication fate of material beyond two years after the meeting would probably add little to the adequacy of the journal-dissemination picture presented in this report.

Summary and Discussion

Two years after the 1966 annual ASA meeting, 42% of the meeting presentation authors had achieved journal publication of their work. Of the 36% who abandoned plans for journal publication of their work or who never intended such publication, over half chose other publication outlets (mostly books or parts of books). Authors began submitting manuscripts to journals months before the meeting. The rate of submissions began to rise rapidly about three months prior to the meeting and continued at this peak rate until four months after the meeting, whereupon it began to level off, reaching a plateau about one year after the meeting. The average submission-publication time lag was about one year; thus the rate of publication tapered off by the end of the second year following the meeting, indicating that the bulk of the presentation material destined for journal publication had been published by this time. Only 30% of the published work appeared in journals which may be considered core to American sociology.

These findings point up several problems in sociology with regard to



[a]Percentages are based on all respondents (N=245), i.e., of the 267 authors who responded in the first follow-up survey, 18 provided no submission date information and did not respond in the second follow-up survey. Four authors did not specify the dates of manuscript submissions to journals. These 22 authors were thus excluded in the calculation of the percentages. One hundred and fifty-two authors indicated submission dates.

[b]Percentages are based on all respondents (N=267). Two authors did not specify the dates on which their work appeared in journals. Thus for the purpose of calculations, the total number of authors publishing articles was 116 instead of 118.

Figure 2: Cumulative distribution of dates of submission of manuscripts to and publication of manuscripts in journals.

the journal publication of meeting presentation material. The first such problem was that only 42% of the presentation material appeared in journals by the end of the second year following the meeting. This low publication rate was caused largely by the high rate of journal rejection. Of those authors who had made submission attempts by the end of the first year following the meeting, for example, 45% had had their manuscripts rejected by one or more journals. This includes 26% of those who had had their manuscripts published by this time. The results of this high rejection rate were as follows: 1) a great amount of the presentation material (70% of that published) eventually appeared in journals not considered core to American sociological literature, and 2) a substantial amount of the presentation material (19%) appeared or would appear in other publication forms -- mostly books.

We also found there to be a tremendous time lag between submission and publication dates. The lag for sociology is approximately 12 months, on the average. About 24% of the presentation material appeared in journals within a year following the meeting and 42% appeared by the end of the second year. No doubt this enormous time lag substantially diminished the significance these articles might have had for fellow researchers. We found in another Center study that a large portion of sociologists who were interested in the presentation material had to rely on the presentation copies, even though the same work was later published in journals (presumably through more rigorous reviewing processes).[8]

This slow and arduous process of dissemination of meeting presentation material created enormous problems not only for disseminators but also for potential users. Because the material appears in a great variety of journals

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[8] JHU-CRSC Technical Note #13, op.cit.

and books, keeping up with work of interest becomes a difficult, if not impossible task for many sociologists. In another study[9], we found that only half the scientists who requested presentation copies were even aware of the appearance of the same work when it was later published in journals. Even fewer requestors were aware of the publication if the work appeared in journals which were not core to sociology (as was the case with 70% of the presentation material published in journals).

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[9] JHU-CRSC Technical Note #13, op.cit.

Johns Hopkins University Center for
Research in Scientific Communication

Technical Note #14 April 1969

THE JOURNAL PUBLICATION OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT TWO MEETINGS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS: TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETINGS[1]

[1]The work described in this report was supported by a grant (NSF-GN 514) under the Research and Studies Program of the Office of Science Information Service of the National Science Foundation.

Introduction

To study the information dissemination and assimilation associated with national scientific and technological meetings is one of the concerns of the Center for Research in Scientific Communication (CRSC), and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics is one of the nine societies being studied in the CRSC's research program. During the winter of 1966-1967, studies were conducted of the Annual AIAA Meeting in Boston in November 1966 (AIAA Boston), and the Fifth Aerospace Sciences Meeting in New York in January 1967 (AIAA New York). The resulting data were reported in 1967.[1] At the time of these studies, 65% of the Boston paper Authors and 91% of the New York AIAA paper Authors indicated plans for immediate publication of their work; and 36% of the Boston Authors and 73% of the New York Authors intended to publish their work in journals.

One year after the meetings, a follow-up study was conducted to determine the extent to which these authors had carried out their publication plans as reported at the time of the meetings.[2] We found that 22% of the Boston responding Authors and 62% of the New York responding Authors had submitted manuscripts based on their presentation material to journals and had had them published or accepted by the end of the year following the meetings. Another 11% of the Boston Authors

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[1] Johns Hopkins University Center for Research in Scientific Communication. A comparison of the dissemination of scientific and technical information, informal interaction, and the impact of information associated with two meetings of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. JHU-CRSC Report #1. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, August 1967.

[2] Johns Hopkins University Center for Research in Scientific Communication. The dissemination of the program material from two meetings of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. JHU-CRSC Technical Note #2. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, March 1968.

and 17% of the New York Authors had submitted manuscripts to journals, but had not yet had them accepted by the end of the same period.

To obtain a more complete picture of the journal publication fate of the meeting material, we conducted a second follow-up study at the end of the second year following each of the two meetings. A questionnaire was sent to each author who indicated in the first follow-up study (a) that he had submitted a manuscript to a journal but had not yet had it accepted, or (b) that he planned to submit a manuscript. The questionnaire asked each author to indicate the status of his manuscript at the end of the second year following the meeting at which he had made the presentation.

Fourteen Boston Authors and 28 New York Authors were included in this study. Two Boston and four New York questionnaires were undeliverable; eleven Boston and 20 New York Authors returned usable questionnaires. Thus the response rate of deliverable questionnaires was 92% for the Boston group and 83% for the New York group.

This report will first describe findings on the publication fate of work by these 31 Authors (respondents in the second follow-up study) and will then summarize the publication fate of the reported material by the end of the second year following the meetings.

Findings of the Second Follow-up Study (two years after the meeting)

Table 1 summarizes the publication fate of the work reported by the 11 Boston and 20 New York Authors. Only one of the eleven Boston Authors had his manuscript published during the second year following the meeting. None of the others had even submitted manuscripts to journals by the end of the second year

Table 1
JOURNAL-DISSEMINATION STATUS (TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETING) OF MANUSCRIPTS OF TWO AIAA MEETING PRESENTATION AUTHORS

Dissemination Status at End of Second Year	Boston Meeting			New York Meeting		
	All Authors (N=11)	Submission Status Indicated by Authors One Year After the Meeting		All Authors (N=20)	Submission Status Indicated by Authors One Year After the Meeting	
		Submitted but not yet accepted (N=5)	Submission planned (N=6)		Submitted but not yet accepted (N=15)	Submission planned (N=5)
Manuscript published in journal	9%	20%	0%	35%	47%	0%
Manuscript accepted, but not yet published	0	0	0	10	13	0
Manuscript submitted but not yet accepted	0	0	0	5	0	20
Submission still planned	18	0	33	25	13[b]	60
No submission planned	73	80[a]	67	25	27[a]	20

[a] These authors had submitted manuscripts to journals in the first year following the meeting. But the manuscripts were either rejected or withdrawn in the second year and the authors planned no further submission attempts.

[b] These authors had submitted manuscripts to journals in the first year following the meeting. But their manuscripts were either rejected or withdrawn. By the end of the second year, they were planning for further submission attempts.

after the meeting. Nine of the 20 New York Authors (45%) had had manuscripts published or accepted. All nine had reported in the first follow-up study (a year after the meeting) that they had submitted manuscripts to journals.

The data clearly indicate that for the Boston group most journal submissions and publications had been completed by the end of the first year following the meeting. For the New York group, most submissions had been made by the end of the first year following the meeting and half the manuscripts which had been submitted but not yet published would appear in journals in the second year or so following the meeting.

Journal Publication Fate of the Material Presented at the Two AIAA Meetings

On the basis of data collected over the two years following the AIAA meetings, a summary can now be given of the journal publication fate of the presentation material. The dissemination status of manuscripts by the end of the second year following each meeting is presented in Table 2. By two years after the Boston Meeting, the work of only 23% of the Authors had appeared in journals. During the same period the work of almost two-thirds (66%) of the New York Authors appeared in journals. These percentages represent more than 93% of those Authors who intended to publish the work in journals. Thus we may conclude that the journal dissemination process for the AIAA Meeting presentation material is nearly completed within two years following each meeting.

We compared the percentage of authors who indicated immediate journal publication plans at the time of the meeting (36% of the Boston Authors and 73% of the New York Authors) and that of Authors who had successfully published their work in journals in the two years following the meeting (23% of the Boston

Table 2
JOURNAL PUBLICATION FATE OF PRESENTATION MATERIAL AT THE TWO AIAA MEETINGS (FOR ONE AND TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETINGS)

Dissemination Status	Boston Authors		New York Authors	
	Manuscript Status at the End of the First Year (N=167)	Manuscript Status at the End of the Second Year (N=167)	Manuscript Status at the End of the First Year (N=181)	Manuscript Status at the End of the Second Year (N=181)
Published in journal	20%	23%	46%	66%
Accepted by journal, but not yet published	2[a]	0	16[a]	1
Submitted, but not yet accepted	11	0	17	<1
Submission still being planned	5	1	6	3
No journal submission planned	60	64	15	17
Unknown	0	11	0	12

[a] It was assumed that all these manuscripts, i.e., those which were accepted but not yet published during the first year, were published by the end of the second year.

group and 66% of the New York group). Thus, we estimated that for those authors who planned journal publication at the time of the meeting, less than two-thirds (64%) of the Boston Authors had been successful in their attempts to disseminate their work in journals as compared to 90% of the New York Authors who had successfully done so. The low percentage of successful journal-publication attempts by Boston Authors was, in part, due to the relatively large proportion of submitted manuscripts which had been rejected by one or more journals during the first year following the meetings. Almost a third (31%) of the Boston Authors who had submitted manuscripts to journals during this period had received rejections by at least one journal (19 out of the 62 submitted manuscripts) whereas only 13% of the New York Authors had had their manuscripts rejected (19 out of the 144 submitted manuscripts).

Of those Boston Authors (101) who, by the end of the first year following the meeting, indicated no journal publication plans, 36% had reported or would report their work in other written forms (mostly technical reports and project reports to sponsoring agencies). Forty-seven percent stated that the manuscripts were prepared specifically for the meeting presentations and that no further dissemination was planned. Of the New York Authors who indicated no journal publication plans, 59% had reported or planned to report their work in other written media (mostly technical reports) and 19% had prepared the presentations only for the meeting.

The overall picture of meeting material dissemination shows the following differences between the two groups of authors:

(1) The Boston Meeting clearly constituted a major dissemination event for a large number of Authors who presented work there, while for the New York

Authors the meeting was primarily an intermediate medium in the dissemination process, the eventual goal of which was journal publication. This difference between the two meetings may, in part, be a result of the difference in their orientations: the Boston Meeting was directed toward technology and research application; the New York Meeting was oriented toward research. Thus the two groups of presentation authors gave different degrees of attention to archival documentation of their work: a substantially smaller percentage of the Boston Authors (36%) than that of the New York Authors (73%) indicated any plans at the time of the meetings, to disseminate their work in journals.

(2) For those authors who had journal dissemination plans at the time of the meeting, the Boston Authors were much less successful in achieving journal publication of their work than the New York Authors. In fact, we estimated that the Boston Authors were about 70% as successful as the New York Authors in fulfilling publication plans in the two years following each meeting; i.e., only 64% of the Boston Authors who indicated plans to publish their presentation material at the time of the meeting were successful in getting their material accepted for publication whereas this percentage was 90% in the case of the New York Authors. The low percentage for the Boston Authors was reflected by the high rejection rate of the Boston Authors' manuscripts (31%) as compared to that for the New York Authors' manuscripts (13%) during the first year following each meeting.

(3) Most of the published and accepted manuscripts had appeared or would appear in AIAA journals, as shown in Table 3. Only 15% of the Boston manuscripts and 7% of the New York manuscripts appeared in non-AIAA journals. While 57% of the Boston manuscripts appeared in the Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets, and

Table 3

JOURNALS WHICH ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPTS BASED ON
THE MATERIAL PRESENTED AT THE TWO AIAA MEETINGS

Journal	Manuscripts Published or Accepted by the End of the Second Year Following the Meeting	
	Boston Authors (N=39)	New York Authors (N=122)
AIAA journals	85%	93%
AIAA Journal	10%	57%
Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets	36	28
Astronautics and Aeronautics	21	0
Journal of Aircraft	18	8
Other journals	15	7

Astronautics and Aeronautics, 57% of the New York manuscripts appeared in the AIAA Journal. None of the New York manuscripts appeared in Astronautics and Aeronautics which published 21% of the Boston manuscripts.

(4) Another important aspect of the dissemination of meeting materials is the speed with which the manuscript submissions and publications occurred. Figure 1 shows the distributions of submission dates[3] by those Authors who had submitted manuscripts to journals by the end of the second year following the meetings. The median submission date was one month after the meeting for the Boston Authors and the same month of the meeting for the New York Authors. The great majority (95%) of the Authors (both Boston and New York) who would eventually submit their manuscripts to journals had submitted the manuscripts within nine months after each meeting.

Figure 2 shows the cumulative distributions of the manuscript submission and publication dates for the presentation material of the two meetings. For the Boston Authors, there was a gap of seven months between the median submission date (one month after the meeting) and the median publication date (eight months after the meeting). The two curves almost converged by the end of the year following the meeting, indicating that the publications had caught up with the submission activities 12 months after the meeting.

For the New York Authors, the gap between the median submission date (same month as the meeting) and the median publication date (10 months after the meeting) was 10 months. The curves did not converge until the 19th month after the meeting, indicating that the publication lag was relatively greater for

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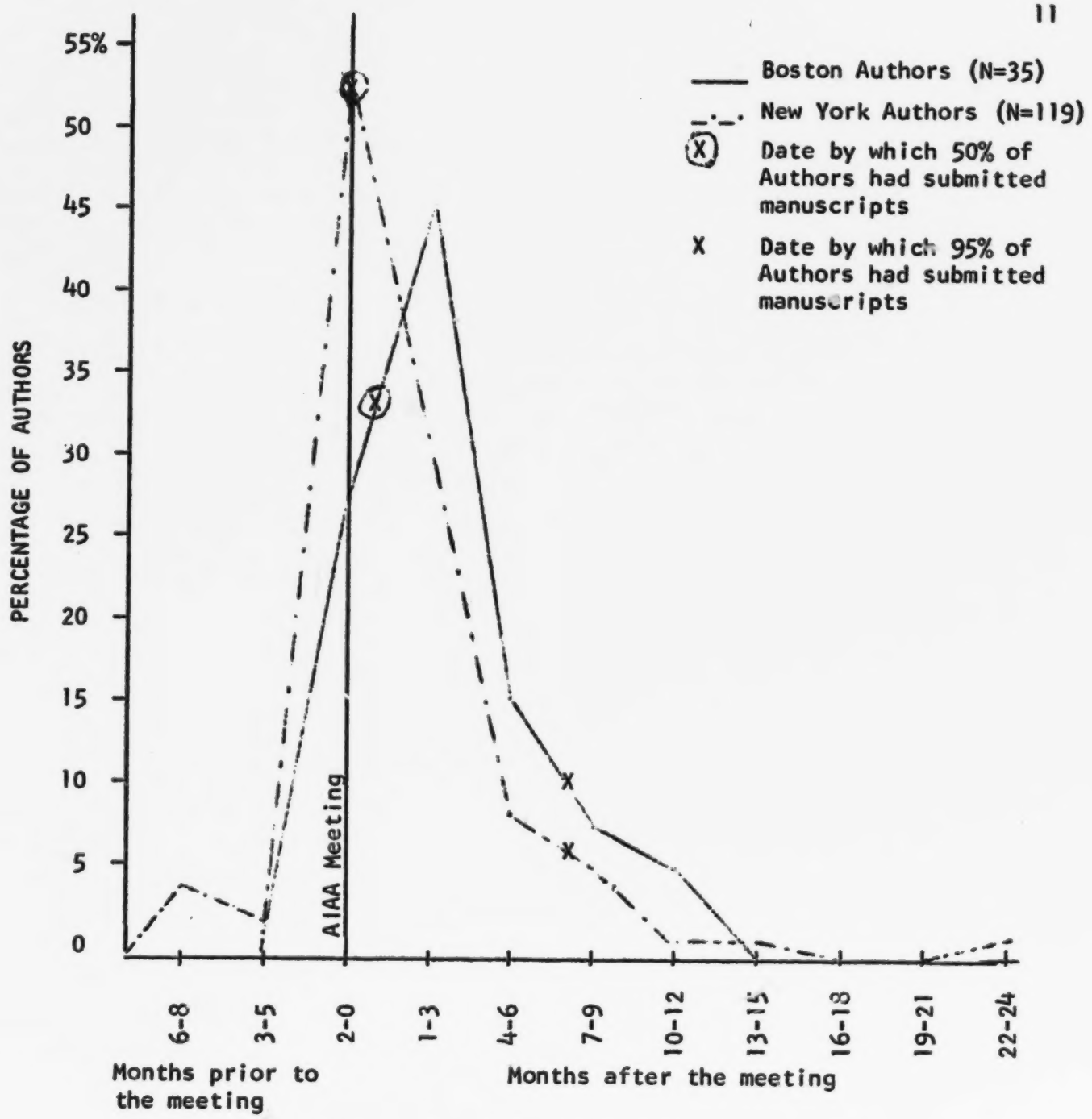
[3]When a manuscript was submitted to more than one journal, the first submission date was used in the tabulations.



TIME OF MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSIONS

Figure 1: Marginal distribution dates of submission of manuscripts to journals.

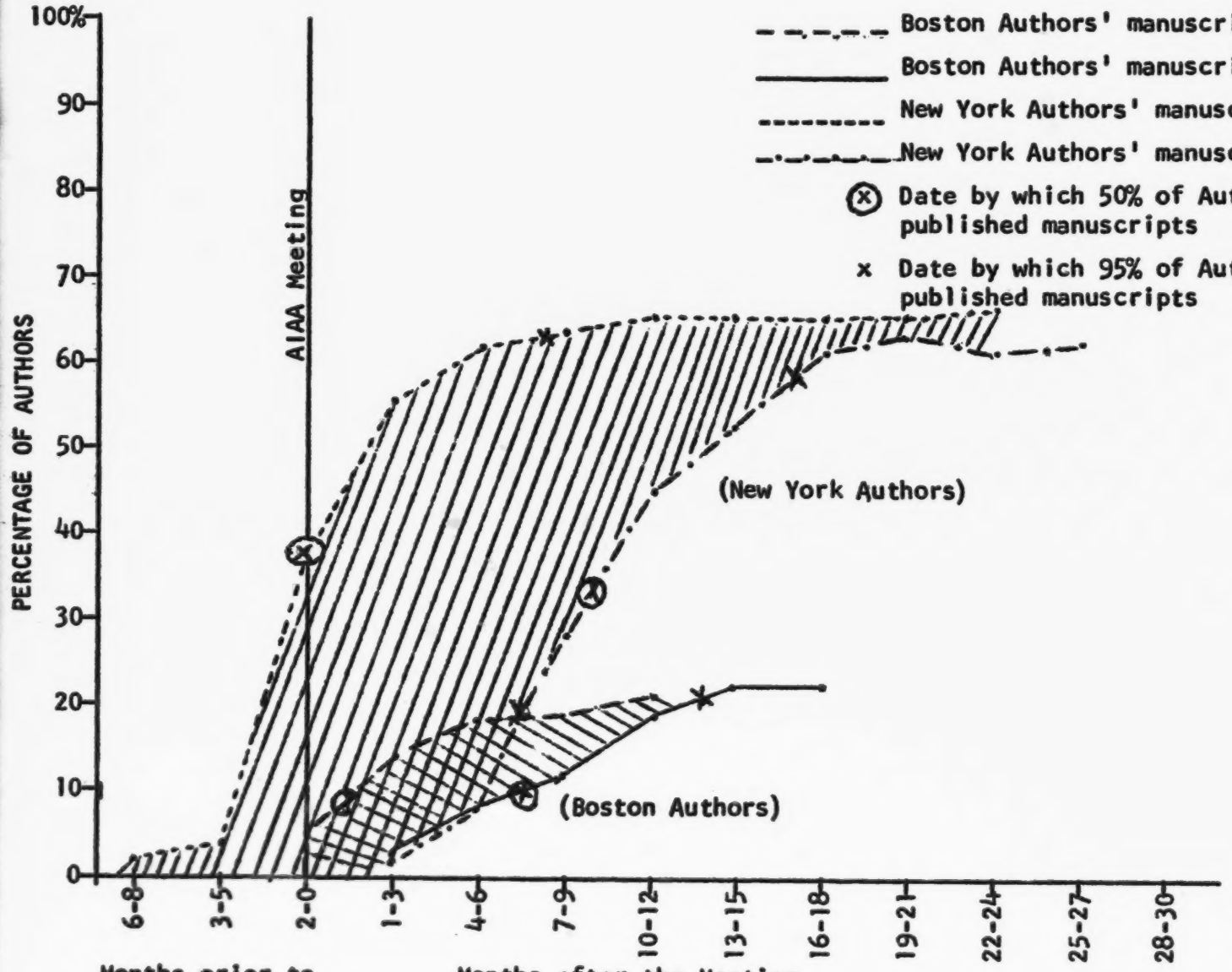


Figure 2: Cumulative distribution of dates of manuscript submission to and manuscript publication in journals.

the New York group than for the Boston group, although the New York Authors tended to submit manuscripts about the same time as, or earlier than, the Boston Authors.

Summary and Discussion

The CRSC conducted studies of the journal publication fate of material presented at two AIAA meetings (the 1966 Annual Meeting of the AIAA in Boston and the 1967 Fifth Aerospace Sciences Meeting in New York). The general findings of these studies are:

(1) Two years after the meetings, 23% of the Boston Authors and 66% of the New York Authors had had their manuscripts published in journals. The difference between the two groups of meeting presentation authors in manuscripts submitted to and published in journals appeared, in part, to be due to the differences between the two meetings. The Boston Meeting was oriented toward technology and applied research and therefore the need to document their work in archival form was presumedly less acute for the Boston Authors. Almost half (47%) of the Boston Authors who had no plans to publish their work in journals by the end of the first year following the meeting (or 30% of all Boston Authors) indicated that they had no plans to disseminate their work in any other written forms and that the presentations were prepared specifically for the Boston Meeting.

The New York Meeting, on the other hand, was research-oriented. The meeting was viewed by the Authors as a stepping stone in the dissemination process; their final goal was to publish their work in some archival form. Only 9% of the New York Authors were found to have no plans for any form of publication of their presentations.

The overall picture of the manuscript dissemination process associated with

the Boston Meeting raises some question about the overall effectiveness of this Meeting. The Boston Meeting Authors made very few efforts to publish their work in journals and the rejection rate was rather high for those who made attempts (about 31% of the Authors attempting publication experienced manuscript rejections by one or more journals in the first year following the meeting as compared with 13% of the New York Authors). Since our study of the meetings clearly indicated that a need for postmeeting dissemination was equally evident for both meetings (for example, 73% of the Boston Authors and 79% of the New York Authors received requests for copies of their presentations[4]), the fact that 77% of the Boston Authors had not attempted or had abandoned plans for journal publications within two years following the meeting is a disturbing one.

(2) Different journals published the presentation material for the two meetings. Over half (57%) of the New York published manuscripts appeared or will appear in the AIAA Journal, while only one in ten (10%) of the Boston published manuscripts appeared here. The Journal of Spacecraft & Rockets published 38% of the Boston manuscripts and 28% of the New York manuscripts. Astronautics and Aeronautics published one in five (21%) of the Boston manuscripts, but none of the New York manuscripts.

(3) The patterns of submission dates were similar for the two groups of Authors. Within one month after each meeting, over half of the Authors who would submit manuscripts to journals within two years had already done so. The great majority (95%) of these Authors had submitted manuscripts to journals within eight months after each meeting.

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[4] JHU-CRSC Report #1, Op. Cit.

Fifty percent of the manuscripts which would appear in journals within two years following each meeting, had appeared by nine months after the meetings; the great majority (95%) of these manuscripts had appeared in journals before 16 months after the meeting. The finding that there is a rather long publication lag, between 7 and 10 months after submission of manuscripts, raises a question as to whether or not the information contained in the published articles has become significantly less useful to other scientists and technologists.

Johns Hopkins University Center for
Research in Scientific Communication

Technical Note #15 June 1969

THE JOURNAL PUBLICATION OF MATERIAL PRESENTED AT THE 1967 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION: TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETING[1]

[1]The work described in this report was supported by a grant (NSF-GN 514) under the Research and Studies Program of the Office of Science Information Service of the National Science Foundation

Introduction

In April 1967, the Center for Research in Scientific Communication, in cooperation with the American Geophysical Union (AGU), conducted a study of scientific information exchange associated with the 1967 Annual Meeting of AGU.[2] One year after this meeting, the Center conducted a (first) follow-up study[3] involving those Authors who presented material at the meeting, and dealing principally with the journal publication of presentation material during the ensuing year. This follow-up study revealed that 47% of the Authors had submitted the main content of their 1967 meeting presentations for journal publication; 29% had published their work during this one-year period; 11% had had their work accepted but not yet published; and 7% had submitted work to, but had not yet had it accepted by, a journal. The remaining 53% had not submitted their work for journal publication during the year following the meeting, but of these 96 Authors, 76% anticipated eventual journal publication.

The present report describes a second follow-up study which was conducted in April 1969 and which concerns the fate of the material presented at the 1967 meeting during the second year after the meeting.

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[2] Johns Hopkins University Center for Research in Scientific Communication. The dissemination of scientific information, informal interaction, and the impact of information associated with the 48th Annual Meeting of the American Geophysical Union. JHU-CRSC Report #5. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, October 1967.

[3] Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication. Journal publication of material presented at the 1967 Annual Meeting of the American Geophysical Union during the year following the meeting. JHU-CRSC Technical Note #6. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, June 1968.

Method

In April 1969, a second follow-up questionnaire was sent to those authors who, in the first follow-up study, indicated 1) that they had submitted manuscripts to journals but had not yet had them accepted for publication, or 2) that they still planned to submit manuscripts for journal publication.

Eighty-six Authors were included in the survey. Questionnaires mailed to six of them were undeliverable. Fifty-seven returned usable questionnaires for a response rate of 71% (of the 80 deliverable questionnaires).

This report first describes findings on the publication fate during the second year after the meeting of work by these 57 authors (respondents in the second follow-up study) and then summarizes the publication status of work presented at the 1967 AGU meeting as of the end of the second year following the meeting.

Findings of the Second Follow-Up Survey (two years after the meeting)

Table 1 indicates the dissemination status, at the end of the second year, of the work presented by the 57 Authors who responded in the second follow-up survey. Twenty-one percent had published their work during the second year; nine percent had had manuscripts accepted but not yet published by journals; and 4% had submitted manuscripts to journals but had not yet had them accepted. Forty-six percent were still at the manuscript preparation stage, while 21% had abandoned plans for journal publication.

Journal Publication Fate of the 1967 AGU Meeting Presentation Material

The data presented in Table 2 (and based on a sample of the presentations made at the 1967 AGU meeting) were collected over the two years after the meeting. The data show that 58% of the presentation material had appeared in journals by this time; that an additional 4% of the material had been submitted to journals (3% accepted and 1% not yet accepted for publication); and that a sixth (16%) of the presentation Authors were still preparing or planning to prepare manuscripts for

Table 1

JOURNAL DISSEMINATION STATUS (TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETING) OF MANUSCRIPTS OF 1967 AGU MEETING PRESENTATION AUTHORS[a]

Dissemination Status At End of Second Year	All Authors[a] N=57	Submission Status Indicated by Authors[a] One Year After the Meeting	
		Submitted But Not Yet Accepted[b] N=8	Submission Planned N=49
Manuscript published in journal	21.1%	75.0%	12.2%
Manuscript accepted but not yet published	8.8	12.5	8.2
Manuscript submitted but not yet accepted	3.5	0	4.1
Submission still planned	45.6	0	53.1
No journal publication now planned	21.1	12.5	22.4

[a]Those Authors who had not had their work published or accepted during the first year after the meeting but still anticipated submission or publication of their manuscripts in journals.

[b]All Authors in this group had submitted manuscripts to journals during the first year after the meeting. Thus, the one Author who did not plan journal publication or his work two years after the meeting presumedly did not have his manuscript accepted by the journal to which he submitted it during the first year after the meeting.

Table 2

JOURNAL PUBLICATION FATE OF 1967 AGU MEETING PRESENTATION MATERIAL
(FOR ONE AND FOR TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETING)

Dissemination Status	Manuscript Status at the End of the First Year (N=191)	Manuscript Status at the End of the Second Year (N=158)[a]
Published in journal	29.8%	57.6%
Accepted by journal but not yet published	11.5	3.2
Submitted but not yet accepted	6.8	1.3
Submission still being planned	40.3	16.5
No submission planned	11.5	21.5
a) Published or to be published in another form	6.8%	10.8%
b) No publication anticipated	4.7%	10.8%

[a]The number of cases at the end of the second year is smaller than that for the first year due to the failure to locate some Authors two years after the meeting and to the nonresponse of some Authors in the second follow-up survey. The 158 respondents represent a sample of 2/3 of the persons who were included in the meeting-presentation author's study conducted at the time of the meeting in 1967.

journal submission. Of those Authors who had no plans for journal publication or who had abandoned such plans (22% of the Authors in the sample), half had disseminated their work via other media--usually technical reports--after the meeting.

If all Authors who intend to publish their work in journals actually do so, over three-fourths (79%) of the 1967 AGU meeting presentation material will eventually appear in journals. Only a small portion of meeting presentations will not be published in journals or in some other form which the Authors consider adequate for their potential audience--only about one presentation in 10 will not have been disseminated in written form either before or after the meeting.

By the end of the second year, 98 of the sampled Authors had submitted manuscripts to 33 different journals. The Journal of Geophysical Research received 41% of these submissions, and Science, the second most popular recipient, received manuscripts from 7% (eight Authors).

Few Authors who submitted manuscripts had difficulty getting their work published. Only eight reported that their manuscripts were not accepted by the first journal to which they submitted them and six of these eight Authors achieved publication in other journals by the end of the second year after the meeting. Four of these eight Authors had originally submitted their manuscripts to the Journal of Geophysical Research.

With so low a rejection rate--only 7% of the submitted manuscripts--the distribution of journals publishing manuscripts is much the same as that of journals receiving them. Table 3 lists those journals which published four or more of the Authors' manuscripts, each. Two years after the meeting the material presented there had been published in (or accepted for publication by) 31 different journals. Although half of this material was published in only four journals, the postmeeting publication of meeting material was still quite diffuse: the other half of the

Table 3

PRIMARY JOURNALS WHICH PUBLISHED OR ACCEPTED PRESENTATION-BASED MANUSCRIPTS

Journals[a]	Manuscripts Published or Accepted N=96
Journal of Geophysical Research	37.5%
Science	7.3
American Journal of Science	4.2
Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America	4.2
Earth and Planetary Science Letters	4.2
Water Resources Research	4.2

[a]In addition to those journals listed in this table, three journals published three manuscripts each; six, two manuscripts each, and 16, one manuscript each.

material was disseminated via 27 different journals, 16 of which published only one of the meeting-presentation-based manuscripts, each.

Authors began submitting manuscripts to journals six months before the meeting. By three months after the meeting, half of those Authors who would submit manuscripts within two years after the meeting, had done so (see Figure 1). By about eight months after the meeting (by which time 80% of the Authors who would submit manuscripts had done so), the rate of submissions slowed down to approximately 1.4 manuscripts per month. At this rate, it will be another $1\frac{1}{2}$ years (i.e., $3\frac{1}{2}$ years after the meeting) before all the manuscripts destined for journal publication will have been submitted to journals.

Journal publication of meeting material began the month of the meeting and half of the material which would be published within two years after the meeting appeared in journals during the first ten months. On the basis of the sample studied, we estimate that by about 16 months after the meeting, half of the meeting material had been published in or accepted by journals.

During the last six months of the second year after the meeting, articles based on presentation material were published at a rate of 1.5 manuscripts per month. At this rate of publication, it will not be until after the second anniversary of the meeting that all the already-submitted material will have been published and it will not be until almost four years after the meeting that all presentation material destined for journal publication will have been published.[4] A comparison of the submission and publication dates in Figure 1 indicates that during the early stages,

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[4] It is expected that a portion of those Authors who still planned journal publication at the time of the second follow-up study will abandon their plans during the third year. Four percent of the Authors who had planned publication at the time of the meeting abandoned their plans at the end of the first year, and 21% of those who, on the first anniversary of the meeting, still planned journal publication, abandoned their plans two years after the meeting.

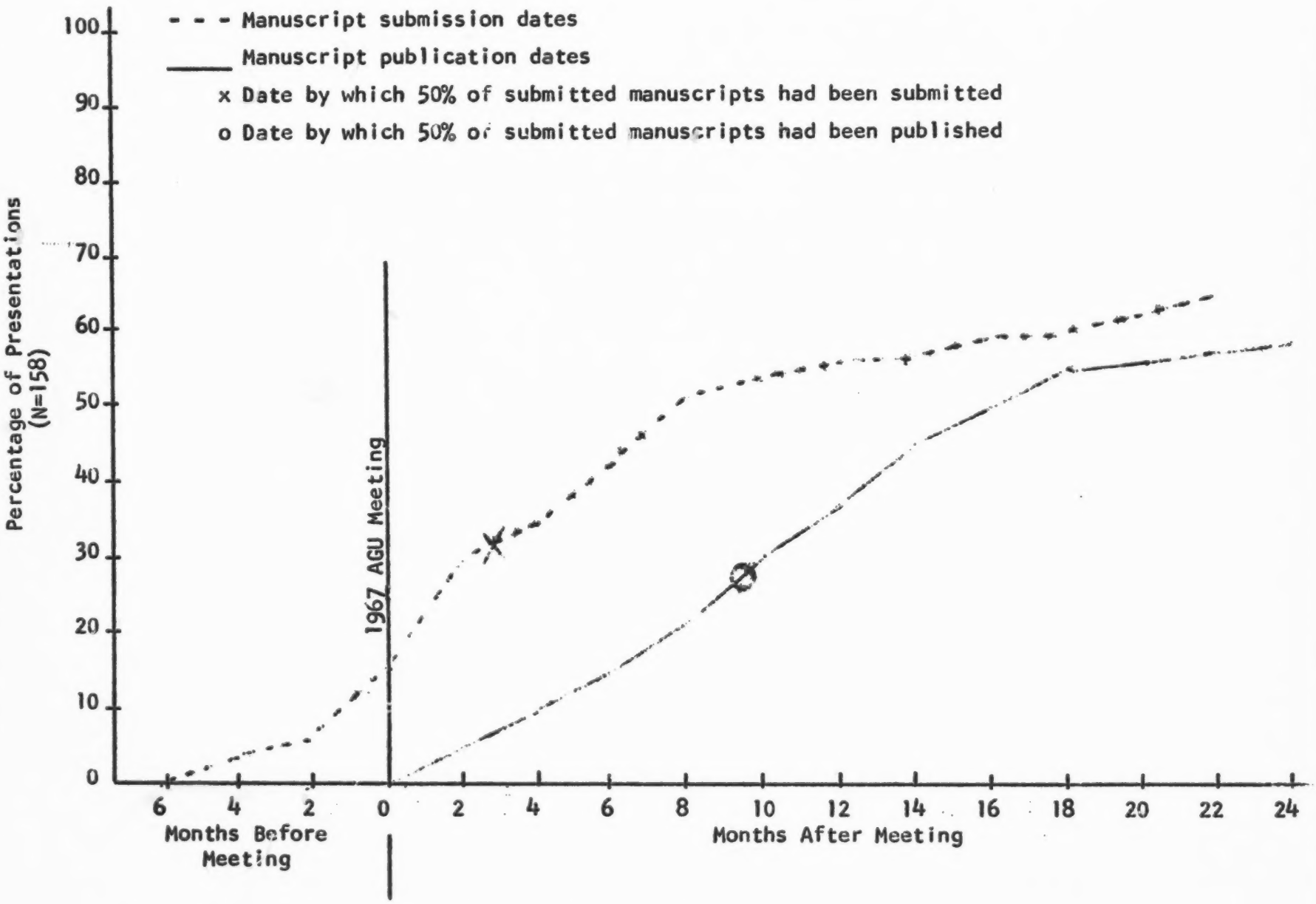

Figure 1: Cumulative distribution of dates of submission of manuscripts and publication of manuscripts in journals.

the publication lag--i.e., time elapsed between submission and publication of manuscripts--was short (approximately 6 months) and that by the time half the manuscripts had been published, this lag increased, but only to about eight months. Thus, the delay in postmeeting dissemination of meeting presentation material was primarily due to Authors' delay in submitting their manuscripts to journals rather than to delay in the editorial processing.

Summary

Two years after the 1967 AGU meeting, over half (58%) of the meeting presentation Authors had achieved journal publication of their work. An additional 3% had obtained journal acceptance of their work and anticipated journal publication within five months. About one Author in six still planned to submit the main content of his presentation to a journal. One Author in five did not intend to publish in a journal the work he presented at the meeting; however, of these Authors, half had disseminated the main content of their presentations and had done so in some other written form which they felt rendered journal publication unnecessary.

Activities involving postmeeting publication of meeting-presentation material are extended over a long period. In fact, the results of these studies suggest much of the 1967 meeting presentation material destined for journal publication will not appear among the journal literature for some time yet. It should be noted, however, that most of the manuscript submission and publication activity did occur relatively soon after the meeting--half the Authors who would submit manuscripts within two years after the meeting did so within three months after the meeting, and half the manuscripts which would be published within the two-year period were published within the first ten months. Thus, most of the Authors who achieved journal publication of their work within two years after the meeting did so early enough for their work to be still relatively current for other scientists. Active researchers might

be concerned, however, about the relatively long delay which we can anticipate before the remaining material is published.

Given this publication delay and the diffuseness of the media publishing the material (31 different journals), one can certainly appreciate the importance of a medium like the AGU meeting, which brings all this material together for public exposure on a single occasion.

One can appreciate, too, the low rate of rejection of manuscripts based on AGU meeting presentations (only 7% of the Authors submitting manuscripts had them rejected). Moreover, rejections did not prevent publication--only one Author failed to achieve subsequent publication of previously rejected manuscripts within two years after the meeting.

Johns Hopkins University Center for
Research in Scientific Communication

Technical Note #16 June 1969

THE JOURNAL PUBLICATION OF MATERIAL PRESENTED AT THE 96TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING, METALLURGICAL, AND PETROLEUM ENGINEERS: TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETING[1]

[1]The work described in this report was supported by a grant (NSF-GN 514) under the Research and Studies Program of the Office of Science Information Service of the National Science Foundation.

Introduction

In February 1967, the Center for Research in Scientific Communication, in cooperation with the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME), conducted a study of scientific and technological information exchange. The study concerned the 96th annual meeting of AIME.[2] One Year after this meeting, the Center conducted a follow-up study[3] of those authors who presented material in the Metallurgical Society portion of the program. This follow-up study dealt primarily with the written dissemination of material presented at the meeting during the ensuing year and indicated that during this interval, 53% of the Authors made efforts toward journal publication of their meeting presentations and a third had articles based on the work which they presented appear in journals. Fourteen percent stated that manuscripts based on their presentations had been accepted by journals but not yet published, and 7% stated that they had submitted their work to journals, but had not yet had it accepted. Nearly a fourth had not submitted their work to journals during the year following the meeting, but still planned to do so, and roughly half of these Authors were preparing manuscripts or had just completed them at the time of the follow-up survey. A fourth had neither sought postmeeting journal publication of the material they presented nor intended to do so.

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[2]Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication. A study of scientific information exchange at the Ninety-Sixth Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers. JHU-CRSC Technical Report #2. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, August 1967.

[3]Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication. The subsequent dissemination of material presented in sessions of the Metallurgical Society at the 96th AIME Meeting. JHU-CRSC Technical Note #4. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, April 1968.

The present study examines further the journal publication fate of the material presented at the 1967 meeting and covers the second year after the meeting.

Method

In April 1969, a brief second follow-up questionnaire was sent to those authors who, in the first follow-up study, indicated 1) that they had submitted manuscripts to journals but had not yet had them accepted for publication, or 2) that they still planned to submit manuscripts for journal publication.

Ninety authors were included in the survey. Questionnaires sent to 5 were undeliverable. Seventy returned usable questionnaires for a response rate of 82% (of the 85 deliverable questionnaires).

This report first describes findings regarding the publication fate of work by the 70 Authors who responded to the second follow-up study, and then summarizes the publication fate of work presented at the 1967 AIME meeting by the end of the second year following the meeting.

Findings of the Second Follow-Up Survey (two years after the meeting)

Table 1 summarizes the dissemination status, as of the end of the second year, of the work by the 70 Authors of the second follow-up. Twenty percent had published their work during the second year; 11% indicated that their manuscripts had been accepted (but not yet published) by journals; and 7% had submitted manuscripts to journals which had not yet accepted them. Thirty-nine percent of the Authors were still at the manuscript-preparation stage, while 21% had abandoned plans for journal publication.

Journal Publication Fate of the 1967 AIME Meeting Presentation Material

By two years after the meeting, approximately 57% of the presentation material had been submitted for journal publication and almost half (49%) of the material had been published. Four percent of the Authors had had their manuscripts accepted, and all of these anticipated publications within six months (i.e. within $2\frac{1}{2}$ years of

Table 1

JOURNAL DISSEMINATION STATUS (TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETING) OF MANUSCRIPTS OF 1967 AIME MEETING PRESENTATION AUTHORS[a]

Dissemination Status at End of Second Year	All Authors[a] (N=70)	Submission Status Indicated by Authors[a] One Year After the Meeting	
		Submitted but not yet accepted[b] (N=12)	Submission planned (N=58)
Manuscript published in journal	20.0%	50.0%	13.8%
Manuscript accepted, but not yet published	11.4	16.7	10.3
Manuscript submitted but not yet accepted	7.1	16.7	5.2
Submission still planned	38.6	—	46.6
No journal publication now planned	21.4	16.7	22.4

[a]Those Authors who had not had their work published or accepted during the first year after the meeting, but still anticipated submission or publication of manuscripts in journals.

[b]All Authors in this group had submitted manuscripts to journals during the first year after the meeting. Thus, the last three dissemination-status categories for this group, which includes four respondents, probably indicate that the journals to which these manuscripts had been submitted during the first year had not accepted them for publication.

the meeting). Three percent of the Authors had submitted manuscripts but had not yet had them accepted (see Table 2).

At the end of the second year after the meeting, approximately one Author in ten (9%) still planned to submit the main content of his presentation for journal publication.

Of those Authors who were still planning journal publication at the end of the first year after the meeting, over a fifth abandoned their plans during the course of the second year. If we combine these persons with those who simply had no publication plans at the end of the first year, we find that a total of three Authors in ten neither submitted nor ever planned to submit the main content of their presentations for journal publication. About half of these persons, however, had published or still planned to publish their presentation material in some other form, e.g., technical reports or books. Thus, only about one presentation in seven will receive no postmeeting written dissemination.

Figure 1 presents the cumulative distribution of submission and publication dates and shows that manuscript submission began well before the meeting (9 months) and continued (at an accelerating pace) until six months after the meeting, by which time almost 3/4 of those Authors who would submit manuscripts within two years after the meeting, had already done so. During the second year after the meeting, the manuscript submission rate dropped to fewer than two manuscripts per month. If this submission rate continues, it will be almost 3½ years after the meeting before all Authors who planned to submit manuscripts will have done so.[4]

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[4] It is expected that a portion of those authors who still planned journal publication at the end of two years after the meeting, will abandon their plans during the third year. This portion is likely to be high. Ten percent of those who had planned journal publication at the time of the meeting abandoned these plans during the first year after the meeting; 21% of those persons who still planned journal publication at the end of the first year after the meeting, abandoned these plans during the course of the second year.

Table 2

JOURNAL PUBLICATION RATE OF 1967 AIME MEETING PRESENTATION MATERIAL
(FOR ONE AND FOR TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETING)

Dissemination Status	Manuscript Status at End of The First Year N=314	Manuscript Status at End of The Second Year N=314
Published in journal	33%	49%
Accepted by journal, but not yet published	14	4
Submitted, but not yet accepted	7	3
Submission still being planned	23	9
No submission planned	24	29
a) Published or to be published in another form	15%	15%
b) No publication anticipated	9	14
Unknown	0	6

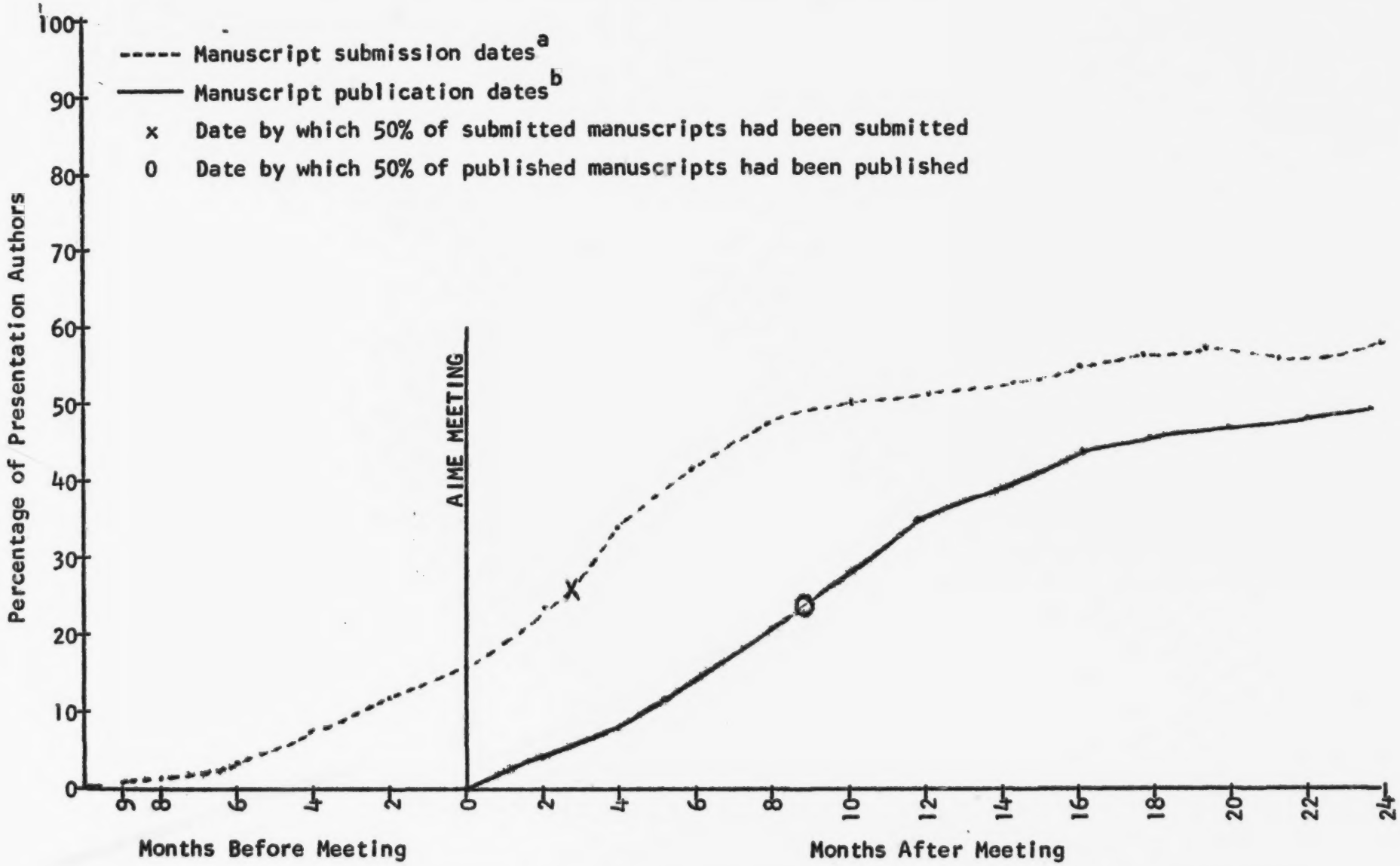

Figure 1: Cummulative distribution of dates of submission of manuscripts to and publication of manuscripts in journals.

[a]Percentages are based on data from 299 respondents, i.e., all respondents minus those who did not provide accurate submission dates.

[b]Percentages are based on data from 302 respondents, i.e., all respondents minus those who did not provide accurate publication dates.

Journal publication of meeting presentation material began the month of the meeting and continued (at a pace which accelerated slightly) until about ten months after the meeting. By this time, about three in five of those manuscripts which would appear in journals within two years after the meeting, had been published. It was not until more than two years after the meeting, however, that half of the 1967 AIME meeting presentation material was available to the scientific community in the form of journal articles.

A comparison of the two curves in Figure 1 provides some indication of the publication lag (time elapsed between submission and publication) of presentation-based manuscripts. The average lag appears to have been between seven and eight months for the first half of the manuscripts which were submitted and published; after this period the lag increased -- largely because of the time involved in the resubmission of manuscripts which were rejected, following the meeting, by one or more journals. Fourteen percent of the submitted manuscripts were rejected at least once (2% were rejected two or more times). Each rejection added three to four months to the delay between initial submission and journal publication.

The Authors submitted their manuscripts to a total of 34 different journals, but the majority of the manuscripts were submitted to only two of these. Table 3 shows those journals which received more than one percent of the presentation-based submissions and which published or accepted more than one percent. Approximately half of the meeting presentation material had been published in 30 different journals by the end of the second year after the meeting, and approximately half of that which was published during this period can be retrieved from only two journals.

Table 3

JOURNALS WHICH ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPTS BASED ON 1967 AIME MEETING PRESENTATION MATERIAL

Journal[a]	Submitted N=314	Accepted or Published N=314
Transactions of the Metallurgical Society of AIME	26.1%	22.0%
Acta Metallurgica	8.3	5.7
Journal of Metals	7.3	4.5
Philosophical Magazine	4.5	3.8
Journal of Applied Physics	2.9	2.9
Journal of Physical and Chemical Solids	1.9	1.9
Journal of Less Common Metals	1.3	1.3

[a]Out of the 34 journals to which Authors submitted manuscripts only these seven listed below were the recipients of manuscripts from more than 1% of the meeting-presentation authors' works. Five of the remaining journals received three manuscripts; five, two manuscripts; and 17, only one manuscript. Of the 30 journals which published or accepted manuscripts only those listed below accepted or published more than 1% of the meeting presentation authors' manuscripts. One journal published three manuscripts; seven, two; and 15, one.

Summary

During the two years which followed the 1967 AIME meeting, 49% of the meeting presentation Authors achieved journal publication of their work. An additional 4% had their work accepted by journals and anticipated publication within 6 months.

The majority of the remaining presentation Authors -- about three in ten -- do not plan to submit the main content of their presentations for journal publication. About half of these, however, published or expected to publish their work in some other form. Consequently, probably only one meeting presentation in seven will receive no postmeeting written dissemination at all.

Although a few more years may elapse before all the 1967 AIME presentation material which was destined for journal publication will have appeared in journals, most of the manuscript submission and publication activity actually took place rather soon after the meeting: half the Authors who submitted manuscripts within two years after the meeting did so within the first three months, and half of the manuscripts which were published within this two-year period were published within nine months of the meeting. Thus most of the meeting material which achieved journal publication within two years after the meeting was disseminated early enough so it was still relatively current for other scientists and technologists.

The rejection rates of manuscripts based on AIME meeting presentations is not high in comparison with those rates found for other disciplines. Approximately 14% of the total manuscript submissions resulted in one or more rejections. Rejection did not appear to keep manuscripts from eventual journal publication, however: among those Authors whose manuscripts were rejected, only three subsequently abandoned journal publication efforts. Rejections, therefore, seemed merely to re-route manuscripts and to delay their eventual publication.

The journal publication of half the material presented at the 1967 AIME meeting (which, it should be remembered, lasted only a few days), was not only stretched out in time -- i.e., over a postmeeting period of more than two years -- but also became scattered among a large number of journals (30). The distribution of journals publishing 1967 AIME meeting presentation material shows that while only 2 journals published a majority of the material, a very large number of journals (28) published a minority of the material. The finding that most of the published material was concentrated in only two journals suggests that the unification which the 1967 AIME meeting temporarily afforded metallurgical information was to some extent maintained; but, on the other hand, the retrieval of much of that information, scattered as it is among 28 other journals, may present a problem for the typical worker in the field.[5]

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[5]There is some indication that the 28 journals in this group may not be comparable in quality to the two core journals. It was the core group that did most of the rejecting of manuscripts and it was the larger group that received a disproportionate share of the rejected manuscripts.

Johns Hopkins University Center for
Research in Scientific Communication

Technical Note #17 June 1969

THE JOURNAL PUBLICATION OF MATERIAL PRESENTED AT THE 1967 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS[1]

[1]The work described in this report was supported by a grant (NSF-GN 514) under the Research and Studies Program of the Office of Science Information Service of the National Science Foundation.

Introduction

The April 1967 Meeting of the Association of American Geographers was the occasion of an initial study of scientific information exchange.[2] Approximately one year after the meeting, authors of papers presented there were sent follow-up questionnaires, designed to determine the journal publication fate of the main content of their meeting presentations during the ensuing year.[3] This follow-up study indicated that within one year after the meeting, 39% of the responding authors had submitted manuscripts to journals; 10% had published their work; 18% had had their work accepted but not yet published; and 10% had submitted manuscripts but had not yet had them accepted. Of the remaining 61%--those who had not yet submitted manuscripts based on their meeting presentations to journals--71% had definite plans to do so.

Methodology

Approximately two years after the 1967 AAG meeting, a second follow-up questionnaire was sent to those authors who, in the first follow-up study, indicated 1) that they had submitted manuscripts to journals during the previous year but had not yet had them accepted, or 2) that they had not submitted manuscripts but definitely planned to do so. This second follow-up questionnaire sought to ascertain the dissemination status of the work by these authors two years after the meeting. Data were obtained on 22 (73%) of the 30 authors included in the survey.

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[2]Johns Hopkins University Center for Research in Scientific Communication. A study of information exchange at the Sixty-Third Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, JHU-CRSC Report #7. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, November 1967.

[3]Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication. Journal publication of material presented at the 1967 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, JHU-CRSC Technical Note #7. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, June 1968.

This report first presents the results of this latest study and then describes the over-all journal dissemination pattern, as it appeared approximately two years after the meeting.

Results of the Second Follow-Up Survey (two years after the meeting)

Of the 22 responding Authors in the second follow-up survey, four had indicated in the first follow-up study that they had submitted manuscripts of their work but had not yet achieved acceptance. Two of them had had their manuscripts accepted but not yet published by the journals which were reviewing them at the time of the first follow-up survey. One had had his manuscript rejected by the journal which was considering it at the time of the first follow-up survey and had submitted it to another journal which was reviewing it at the time of the second follow-up survey. The fourth Author had abandoned publication plans after having had his manuscript rejected twice.

The remaining 18 responding Authors in the second follow-up survey had indicated at the time of the first survey that although they had not submitted manuscripts to journals during the first year after the meeting, they had definite plans to do so. Of these 18 Authors, only 28% had actually made publication efforts in the second year following the meeting. An additional 61% still planned to submit manuscripts to journals, however. The remaining 11% had abandoned publication plans during the second year, without ever having submitted their work to journals (see Table 1).

Combined Results of First and Second Follow-Up Surveys

On the basis of data obtained from both follow-up surveys, it is now possible to give a summary of the journal publication fate of material presented at the 1967 AAG meeting. As can be seen in Table 2, only 28% of the presentation material appeared in journals within two years after the meeting. An additional tenth was

Table 1

STATUS OF MANUSCRIPT TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETING FOR THOSE AUTHORS WHO HAD NOT SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPTS FOR JOURNAL PUBLICATION ONE YEAR AFTER THE MEETING BUT PLANNED TO DO SO IN FUTURE

Status	Percentage N=18
Manuscript published	6%
Manuscript accepted but not yet published	17
Manuscript submitted but not yet accepted	6
Manuscript not submitted but still planned	61
Publication plans abandoned	11

Table 2

JOURNAL PUBLICATION FATE OF 1967 MEETING PRESENTATION MATERIAL
(FOR ONE AND TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETING)

Dissemination Status	Manuscript Status At The End of The First Year (N=57)	Manuscript Status At The End of The Second Year (N=57)
Published in journal	10.5%	28.1%
Accepted by journal but not yet published	17.5	10.5
Submitted but not yet accepted	10.5	3.5
Submission still being planned	43.9	19.3
No submission planned	17.5	22.8
a) Published or to be published in another form	8.8%	10.8%
b) No publication anticipated	8.8	12.0
Unknown		15.8

accepted by journals and will be published during the third year after the meeting. Four percent of the Authors had submitted manuscripts to journals, but had not yet had them accepted. Almost one fifth (19%) were still preparing manuscripts for submission. Of the Authors who had no plans for journal publication, 43% had chosen other media, such as proceedings, technical reports, or books, for publication of their work.

Since only a tenth of those Authors who were planning submission at the end of the first year after the meeting abandoned such plans during the second year, we can expect the vast majority of those Authors who are still planning manuscript submission to carry out their plans. If all the Authors who intended to publish their work in journals eventually do so, a maximum of 67% of the material presented at the AAG meeting will eventually appear in journals. The present trend would indicate, however, that all this material will not have appeared until the end of the seventh or eighth year after the meeting.

Not only is the postmeeting journal dissemination of the meeting presentation material extremely slow; the material is published in a wide variety of journals, as well. The work of those 22 Authors whose work was published or accepted for publication will appear in 16 different journals. Only four journals will publish more than one of the manuscripts each--Annals of the American Association of Geographers and Professional Geographer (each mentioned three times), and Geographical Review and Canadian Geographer (each mentioned twice).

The distribution of submission dates[4] for those Authors who submitted manuscripts to journals within two years after the meeting is shown in Figure 1. Manuscript submission began around the time of the meeting. By one month after the meeting, one-third of the Authors had submitted their manuscripts to journals.

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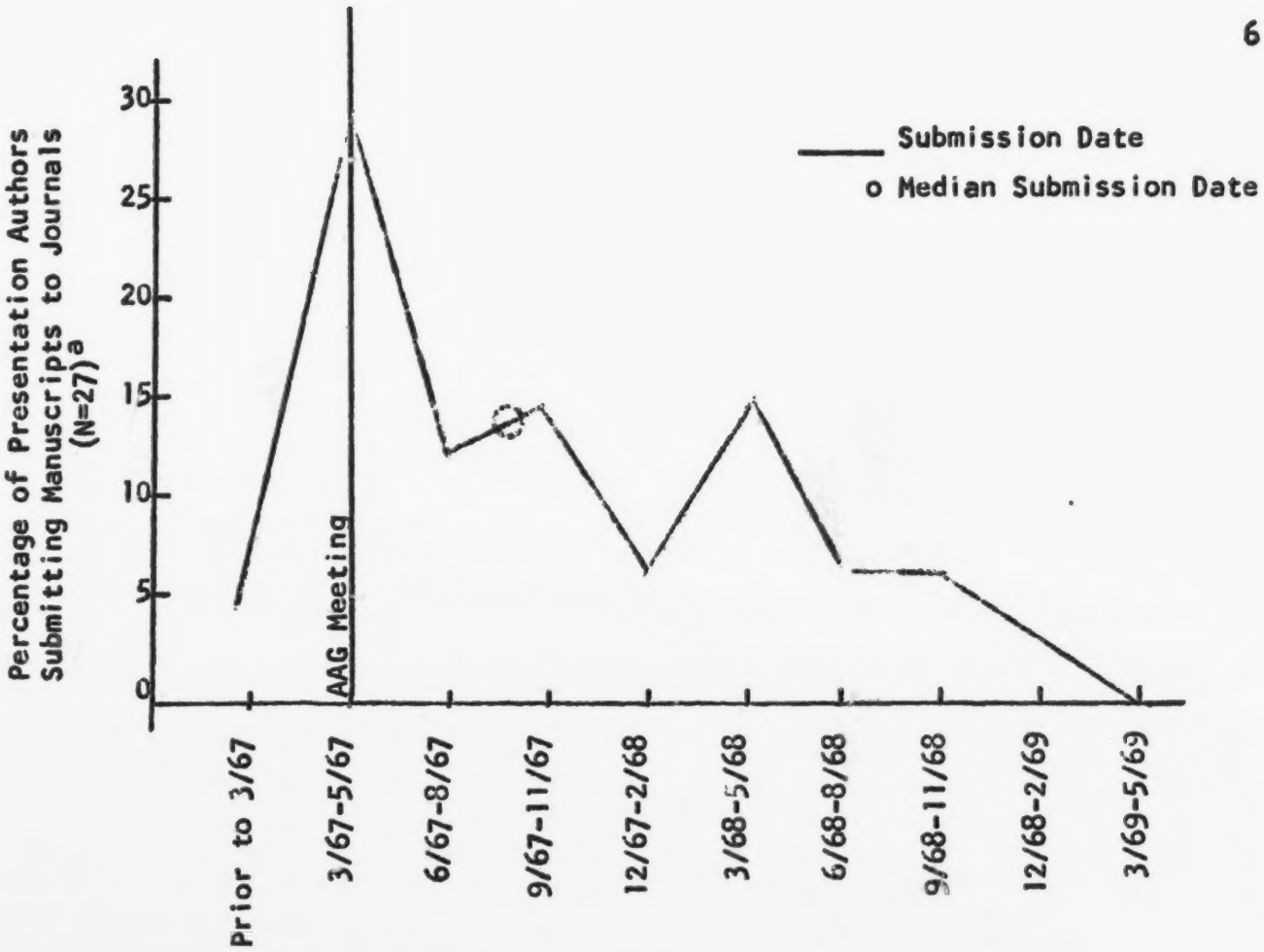
[4] In the case of more than one submission, the earliest date was selected.



[a]Where manuscripts had been submitted to more than one journal the earliest date was selected.

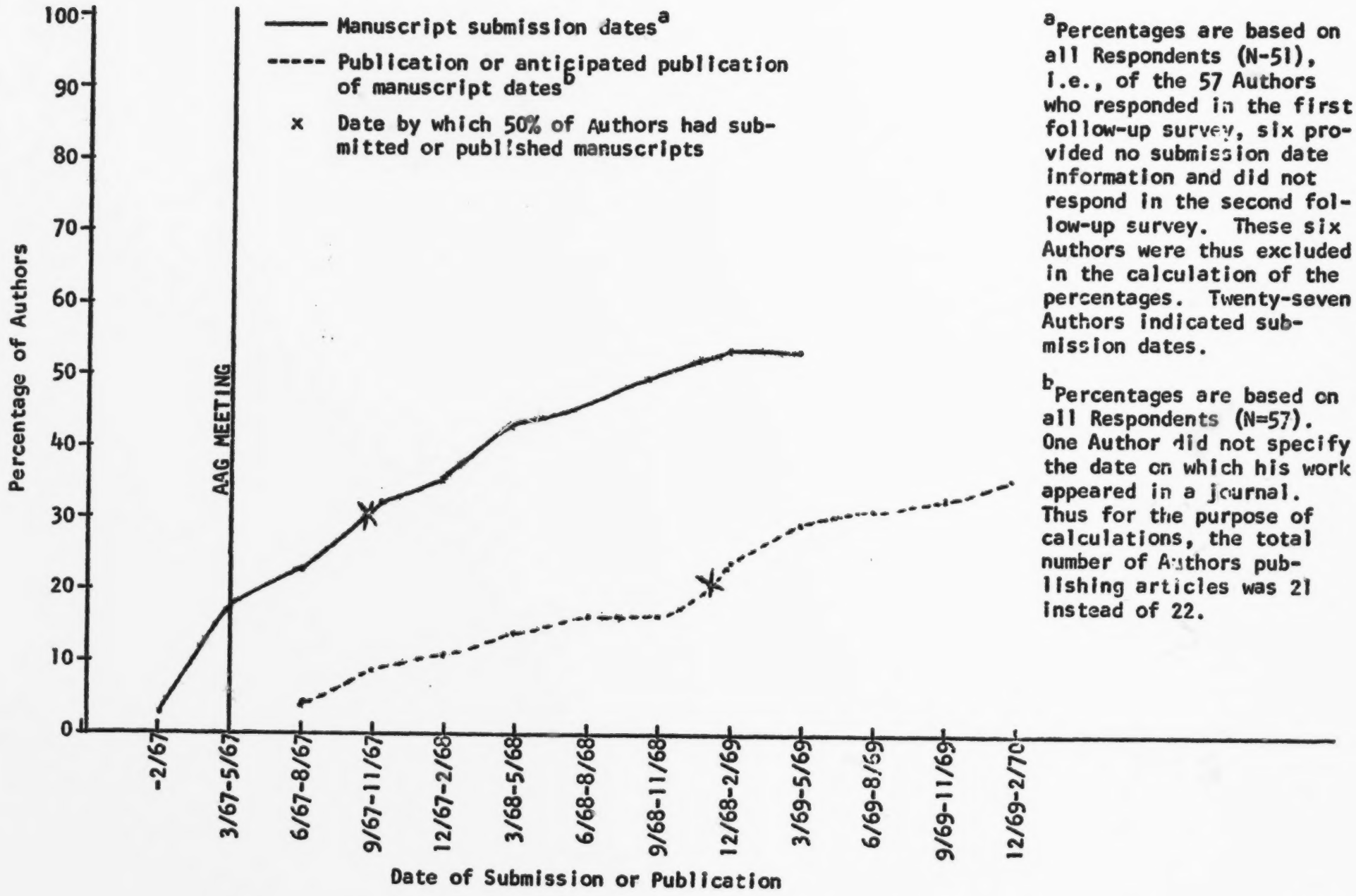
Figure 1: Date of submission to journals for material contained in presentations at the 1967 AAG Meeting.

Hereafter, the rate dropped sharply and it was not until five months after the meeting that half those Authors who would submit manuscripts had done so for the first time. Figure 2 shows the cumulative distribution of earliest submission and publication (or anticipated publication) dates. After an initial spurt of submissions in the first month after the meeting, submissions leveled off (until 19 months after the meeting) to an average of one manuscript per month. By this time, half the presentation Authors had submitted manuscripts. The curve then leveled off even more, indicating that the submission rate had probably reached a plateau and that during the third year after the meeting less than one manuscript per month will be submitted (for the first time) to a journal.

The publication curve was almost a straight line, with an average of two manuscripts published every three months. It was not until 20 months after the meeting that the work of half those Authors whose manuscripts had been published or accepted for publication had appeared in journals.

Summary and Discussion

By two years after the 1967 AAG meeting, only 28% of the Authors who had made presentations there had had their work published in journals. Another 10% had had their manuscripts accepted but not yet published. Authors began submitting manuscripts to journals just before the meeting. After the initial surge of submissions, which ended one month after the meeting, the rate of submissions slowed to one manuscript per month for the next 18 months (i.e., up to 19 months after the meeting), at which time it reached a plateau. Publication of work presented at the meeting began two months after the meeting and continued at a steady rate (two manuscripts published every three months) for the next 32 months. If this publication rate continues it will not be until almost four years after the meeting that half the material presented there will have been published.



[a]Percentages are based on all Respondents (N-51), i.e., of the 57 Authors who responded in the first follow-up survey, six provided no submission date information and did not respond in the second follow-up survey. These six Authors were thus excluded in the calculation of the percentages. Twenty-seven Authors indicated submission dates.

[b]Percentages are based on all Respondents (N=57). One Author did not specify the date on which his work appeared in a journal. Thus for the purpose of calculations, the total number of Authors publishing articles was 21 instead of 22.

Figure 2: Cumulative Distribution of dates of submission of manuscripts to and publication of manuscripts in journals.

The data indicate three causes for this extremely slow publication process, which has created a serious problem in the dissemination of material presented at the 1967 AAG meeting. These causes are: 1) the Authors waited relatively long after the meeting before they submitted their manuscripts; 2) there was a high rate of rejection; and 3) there was a considerable time lag between submission and publication. During the two years after the meeting, only 47% of the AAG Authors made any attempt to publish their work. This rate was the lowest found for any of the eleven meetings studied by the Center. The next lowest group, the American Sociological Association, had a rate of 58%.[5] And while it was one month after the ASA meeting before half the ASA authors who would submit manuscripts had done so, it was five months for the AAG Authors.

Of those Authors who made submission attempts by the end of the first year following the meeting, 32% had their manuscripts rejected by one or more journals. This included 26% of those who had their manuscripts accepted by other journals.

The work of the 22 Authors whose work was published or accepted for publication appeared or will appear in 16 different journals.

There was also a long time lag between dates of submission and dates of publication. This lag for geography averaged approximately 10 months. About 10% of the presentation material appeared in journals within one year after the meeting and 28% appeared by the end of two years. This time lag undoubtedly decreased the relevance which these articles might otherwise have had for researchers.

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[5] The Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication. The journal publication of papers presented at the 1966 meeting of the American Sociological Association: two years after the meeting. JHU-CRSC Technical Note #2. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, February 1969.

AAG plans to publish proceedings of its 1969 annual meeting. This will certainly help stimulate interaction concerning current research in geography, since the material to be presented at the meeting will now be available in written form prior to the meeting--i.e., at a time when it is most relevant to the consumer. Information consumers will no longer have to wait four or five years for the material to be published in journals.

Johns Hopkins University Center for
Research in Scientific Communication

Technical Note #18 June 1969

THE JOURNAL PUBLICATION OF THE MAIN CONTENT OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT TWO MEETINGS OF THE AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY: TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETING[1]

[1]The work described in this report was supported by a grant (NSF-GN 514) under the Research and Studies Program of the Office of Science Information Service of the National Science Foundation.

Introduction

During the period from 1966 to 1968, the Center for Research in Scientific Communication (CRSC), conducted a series of studies on information dissemination and assimilation associated with national scientific and technological meetings. In 1967, the Center studied two national meetings involving members of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), one of nine societies participating in the research program: the 47th Annual AMS Meeting in New York in January (New York Meeting), and the meteorological paper sessions of the 49th Annual American Geophysical Union Meeting in Washington D. C. in April (Washington Meeting). The findings, which concerned the information-exchange activities surrounding these two meetings, appeared in a CRSC Technical Report.[2]

At the time of these initial studies, 96% of the New York Authors and 95% of the Washington Authors indicated plans to publish their work in the near future. More than four-fifths -- 82% of the New York Authors and 84% of the Washington Authors -- intended to publish their work in journals. The median date of intended manuscript submission for both groups was three months after the meetings.

To determine the extent to which such dissemination plans were subsequently carried out, the CRSC conducted a follow-up study twelve months after each meeting: in January 1968 for the New York group and in April 1968 for the Washington group.[3]

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[2] Johns Hopkins University Center for Research in Scientific Communication. A comparison of the dissemination of scientific information, informal interaction and the impact of information received from two meetings of the American Meteorological Society. JHU-CRSC Report #6. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, November 1967.

[3] Johns Hopkins University Center for Research in Scientific Communication. The journal publication fate of work reported at two 1967 meetings of the American Meteorological Society. JHU-CRSC Technical Note #5. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins University Center for Research in Scientific Communication, June 1968.

The results of the follow-up study revealed that during the year following the meetings, 53% of the New York Authors and 38% of the Washington Authors had manuscripts based on their presentation material published in or accepted by journals. Another 11% of the New York Authors and 11% of the Washington Authors submitted manuscripts to journals, but had not yet had them accepted. A substantial number of the Authors in both groups (20%, New York; 32%, Washington) were still planning to submit manuscripts to journals.

To obtain a more complete picture of the journal publication fate of the presentation material, we conducted a second follow-up study at the end of the second year following each meeting. A questionnaire was sent to each author who indicated in the first follow-up study, 1) that he had submitted a manuscript to a journal but had not yet had it accepted, or 2) that he still planned to submit a manuscript. Each author was asked to indicate the publication status, at the end of the second year following the meeting, of his meeting presentation material.

Thirteen New York Authors and 35 Washington Authors were included in this study. Of these, 11 New York Authors and 23 Washington Authors returned usable questionnaires. Thus, the response rate of deliverable questionnaires was 85% for the New York group and 68% for the Washington group.[4]

This report first presents findings on the publication fate of work by these 34 Authors (respondents in the second follow-up study) and then summarizes the publication fate of meeting presentation material, as of the end of the second year following each meeting.

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[4]One Washington questionnaire was undeliverable.

Findings of the Second Follow-Up Study

The journal dissemination activities of the Authors who responded to the second follow-up study are summarized in Table 1. Only one of the 11 New York Authors and two of the 23 Washington Authors had published manuscripts during the two years after the meetings. Two New York Authors had had manuscripts accepted but not yet published. One New York Author had submitted his manuscript but had not yet had it accepted. Six Washington Authors had had manuscripts accepted but not yet published. None of the Washington group had manuscripts still under consideration by journal editors.

The data indicated that publication activity diminished considerably during the second year: during the first year, 53% of the New York and 38% of the Washington Authors had manuscripts published or accepted for publication; during the second year, only one in three of those Authors who intended journal publication were equally successful. A total, then, of 60% of the New York Authors and 47% of the Washington Authors had had manuscripts published in or accepted by journals by the end of the second year following the meetings.

Journal Publication Fate of Material Presented at the Two AMS Meetings

The data from the first and second follow-up studies, when combined, give a summary of the journal publication fate of the material presented at the two AMS meetings during the two years which followed. As shown in Table 2, the work of 56% of the New York Authors had appeared in journals by the end of the two years after the meeting, while the work of only 40% of the Washington Authors had appeared in journals during the same period. These percentages concern the publication of manuscripts by 80% of those New York Authors and 74% of those Washington Authors who made efforts to publish their work in journals.

Table 1

JOURNAL DISSEMINATION STATUS (TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETING) OF MANUSCRIPTS OF TWO AMS MEETING PRESENTATION AUTHORS

Dissemination Status at End of Second Year	New York Meeting			Washington Meeting		
		Submission Status Indicated by Authors One Year After the Meeting			Submission Status Indicated by Authors One Year After the Meeting	
	All Authors (N=11)	Submitted but not yet accepted (N=2)	Submission planned (N=9)	All Authors (N=23)	Submitted but not yet accepted (N=5)	Submission planned (N=18)
Manuscript published in journal	9%	0%	11%	9%	40%	0%
Manuscript accepted but not yet published	18	0	22	26	40	22
Manuscript submitted but not accepted	9	50	0	0	0	0
Submission still planned	27	0	33	43	0	56
No submission planned	27	50	22	13	20	11
Technical Reports[a]	9	0	11	9	0	11

[a]Information in the meeting presentation was deemed to be sufficiently available in technical reports by some authors and, therefore, no journal publication was anticipated.

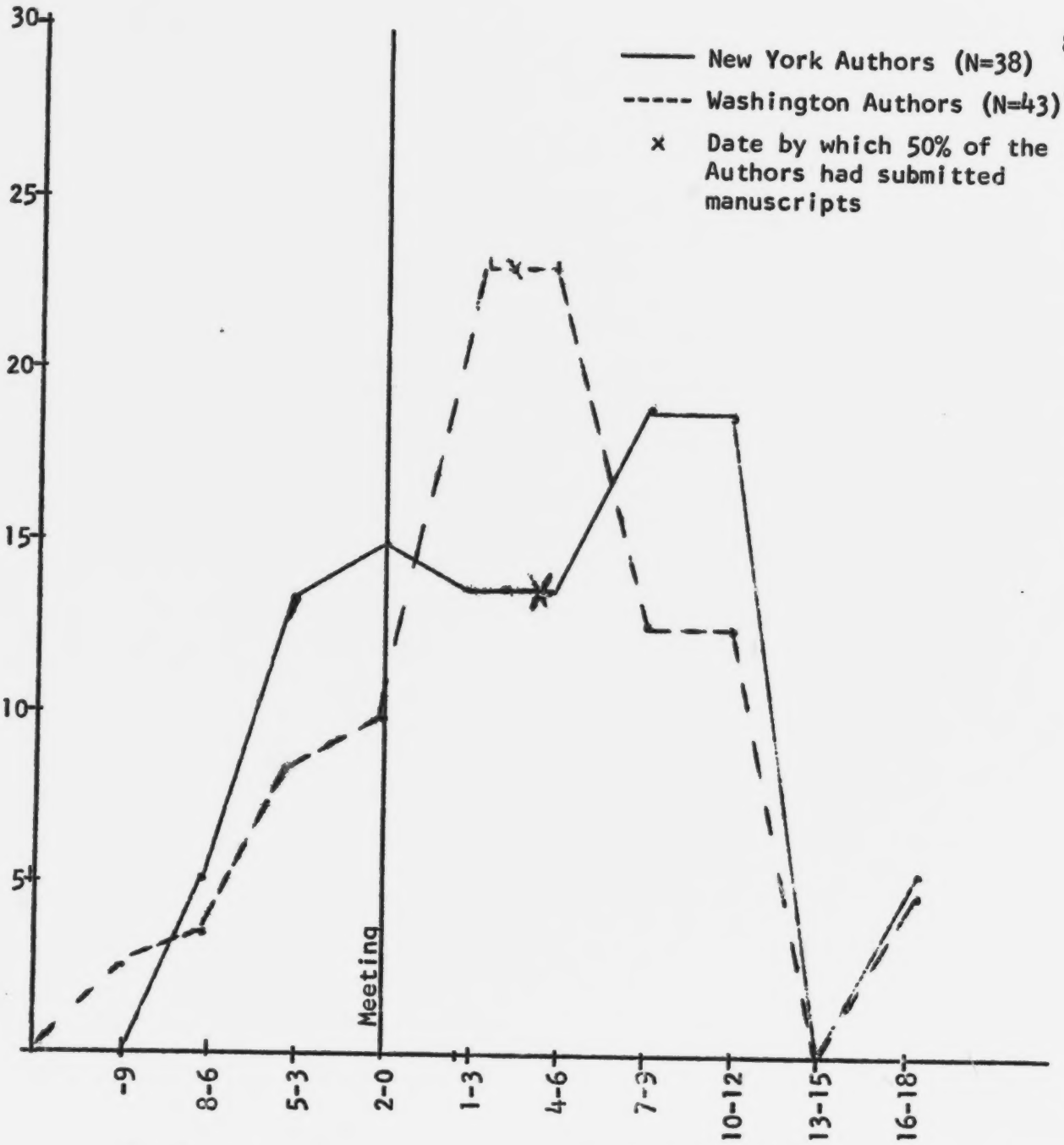
Table 2

JOURNAL PUBLICATION FATE OF PRESENTATION MATERIAL AT THE TWO AMS MEETINGS (FOR ONE AND TWO YEARS AFTER THE MEETINGS)

Dissemination Status	New York Authors		Washington Authors	
	Manuscript Status at the End of the First Year (N=54)	Manuscript Status at the End of the Second Year (N=54)	Manuscript Status at the End of the First Year (N=82)	Manuscript Status at the End of the Second Year (N=82)
Published in journal	31%	56%	27%	40%
Accepted by journal, but not yet published	22	4	11	7
Submitted, but not yet accepted	11	2	11	0
Submission still being planned	20	6	32	12
No journal submission planned	15	22	20	26
Unknown	0	11	0	15

We compared the percentage of Authors who planned, at the time of the meeting, to publish their presentation material (82% of the New York and 84% of the Washington Authors) with the percentage of Authors who successfully published their work in journals during the two years after the meetings (56% of the New York and 40% of the Washington Authors). Thus, we estimated that of those New York Authors who planned journal publication at the time of the meeting, two-thirds (68%) had successfully disseminated their work in journals in the two-year postmeeting period and that of those Washington Authors in the same category, less than half (48%) had done so in the same period. Two factors help to explain this low rate of successful journal publication attempts on the part of Washington Authors. First, fewer submission attempts were made by Washington Authors than by New York Authors. By the end of the first year after the meeting, 64% of the New York Authors had submitted manuscripts, while only 49% of the Washington Authors had done so. Second, more Washington manuscripts were rejected one or more times each than were New York manuscripts. Nine of the 40 Washington manuscripts submitted by the end of the first year following the meeting (23%), were rejected by at least one journal each. Only one of the 35 New York manuscripts submitted (3%) was rejected by a journal.

The dates of actual manuscript submission closely approximated those anticipated by the authors at the time of the meeting. As shown in Figure 1, the median submission date for those New York Authors who made submission attempts within two years after the meeting was four months after the meeting and the median projected date was three months after the meeting. The median submission date was five months after the meeting for the Washington Authors, whose median projected date was four months after the meeting. It is clear that the AMS meeting presentation Authors made most of their manuscript submission attempts within a year after the meetings. In fact, almost 95% of those Authors who made submission attempts in



TIME OF MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSIONS

Figure 1: Marginal distribution of dates of (earliest) manuscript submission to journals

[a]Two of the Authors did not specify the submission dates.

the two years after the meetings did so within these first 12 months.

The average (median) lag between date of submission and date of publication was approximately six months (see Figure 2). Publication activity slowed down considerably by a year and a half after the meeting -- in fact, 93% of the manuscripts published in the two-year period were published during these first 18 months. The average submission-publication gap increased three to five months after the meeting and became substantial between six and 12 months after the meeting, as submissions became scarce. The gap will close further for the Washington group, since five of these Authors (6%) indicated that their manuscripts would be published during the latter part of 1969, or one to five months after the two-year postmeeting period.

Different journals published or accepted manuscripts for the two groups. These journals were divided into core and non-core journals.[5] As shown in Table 3, 84% of the New York Authors had their work published in or accepted by core journals, while only 64% of the Washington Authors had work published or accepted by them. Ten journals published or accepted the 32 New York manuscripts and 14 journals published or accepted the 39 Washington manuscripts.

Summary and Discussion

On the first and second anniversaries following the 47th Annual AMS Meeting in New York (January 1967) and the meteorological paper sessions of the 49th Annual American Geophysical Union Meeting in Washington D. C. (April 1967), the CRSC conducted two studies designed to determine the publication fate of material presented at the meetings.

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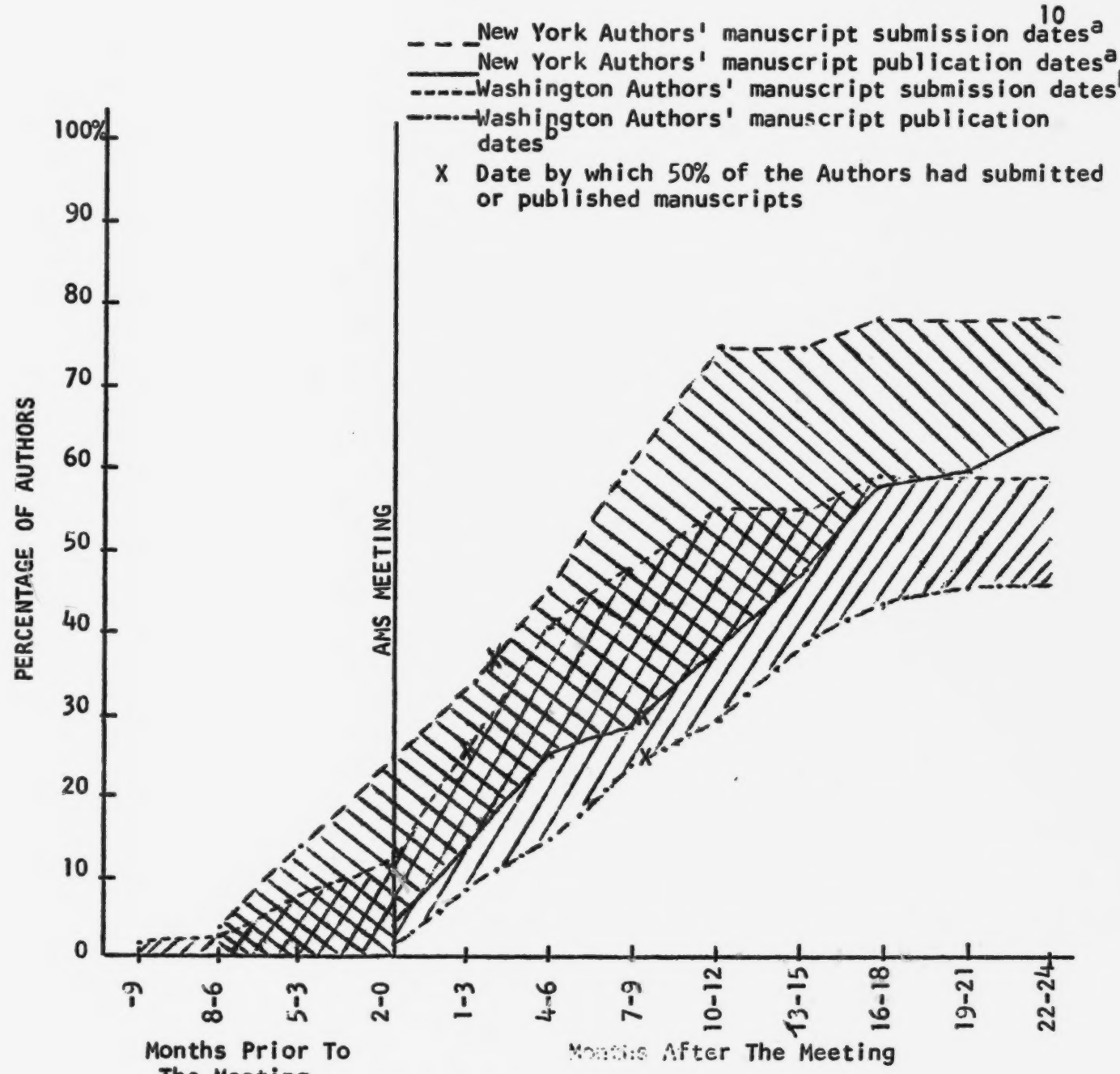
[5]Journals were considered "core" if they were published by AMS or if they were found to have a high frequency of citations in AMS journal references. Journals not fitting these specifications were considered "non-core."



TIME OF SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

[a]Percentages are based on 48 of the 54 respondents. The six Authors who provided no submission or publication date information in the first follow-up survey or who did not respond in the second follow-up survey were excluded from the calculations.

[b]Percentages are based on 70 of the 82 respondents. The 12 Authors who provided no submission or publication date information in the first follow-up survey or who did not respond in the second, were excluded from the calculations.

Figure 2: Cumulative distribution of dates of manuscript submission to and manuscript publication in journals.

Table 3

JOURNALS WHICH ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPTS BASED ON THE MATERIAL PRESENTED AT THE TWO AMS MEETINGS[a]

Journal	Manuscripts Published or Accepted by the End of the Second Year Following the Meeting	
	New York Authors (N=32)	Washington Authors (N=39)
Core Journals	84%	64%
Monthly Weather Review	28%	23%
Journal of Applied Meteorology	28	15
Journal of Atmospheric Sciences	16	23
American Meteorological Society Monographs	9	0
Tellus	3	3
Other Journals	16	36
Journal of Geophysical Research	3	8
Applied Optics	0	5
Journal of Atmospheric and Terrestrial Physics	0	5
Others	13[b]	18[b]

[a]The table lists those journals which published or accepted at least two manuscripts.

[b]Four other journals published or accepted one manuscript each from the New York Author group and seven journals did so from the Washington Author group.

The general findings were as follows:

1) Within the two years following the meetings, 56% of the New York Authors and 40% of the Washington Authors had their presentations published in journals. These percentages represent two-thirds (68%) of those New York Authors and less than half (48%) of those Washington Authors who indicated plans for journal publication of their presentations at the time of the meetings.

2) The rates of successful attempts at journal publication of meeting material, during the two years after the meeting, differed for the two groups of Authors. The New York group submitted a higher percentage of manuscripts and received fewer rejections than did the Washington group. Twenty-three percent of the Washington manuscripts which were submitted in the first year were rejected at least once by the end of that year, as compared to only 3% of the New York manuscripts.

3) Eighty-four percent of the published New York manuscripts appeared in journals which were core to AMS. Only 64% of the Washington manuscripts appeared in core journals.

4) During the two years after the meetings, the gap between submission and publication averaged five to six months. Most submissions occured within a year after the meetings and most publications occured within a year and a half. Five Washington manuscripts will appear more than two years after the meeting, however. Since manuscripts by 23% of the Washington Authors were rejected in the first year following the meeting, such late publication may represent second or third attempts on the part of these Authors to have their manuscripts published in journals.